

RECREATION

— May 1943 —

PLAYGROUNDS



Storytelling

By Dessa M. Fultz

Any Stamps Today?

Sundays-in-the-Parks

By Jack Martin

Let's All Sing Together!

By William J. Meyers

At Burlingame's Play Centers

Playground Programs—1943 Style

Volume XXXVII, No. 2

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Thirty-seven Years!

ON APRIL 12, 1906, thirty-seven years ago, the National Recreation Association was established. In April, 1907, one year later, the RECREATION magazine had its first issue. For thirty-six years the magazine has appeared each month. In December, 1910, thirty-three years ago, Lebert H. Weir became the first field secretary and took up his district on the Pacific Coast. Since that date district service has been maintained in times of war, in times of depression, as well as in times of peace and plenty.

A number of other organizations have sprung up to push special recreation interests; most of them have come and gone but the National Recreation Association, working for recreation for all the people, has remained without interruption.

One of its first meetings in 1906 was held in the White House with President Theodore Roosevelt. Twenty-five years later another meeting—an anniversary meeting—was held in the Cabinet Room at the White House with President Hoover. Several Cabinet members were present on that occasion.

The Association has always tried to serve the leisure-time recreation interests of all human beings in the United States from the cradle to the grave. It has given service through its correspondence section to individuals and to families. It has served community organizations supported by private funds. It has served the American Legion, the service clubs, the P.T.A.'s, individual settlements. Business and industry, church and labor groups have looked to the Association for help. It has served rural areas as well as cities. Thousands of volunteers have been trained for recreation leadership.

Above all, however, the Association has given service to government, local, county, state and national, in recreation. About five hundred city governments have asked the Association to serve as the agency for regularly clearing information between them. The Association has helped establish physical education in the states. The Association has several times on request during different national administrations loaned some of its workers to Federal departments to help with certain recreation projects.

Under Luther Halsey Gulick, Joseph Lee, John H. Finley, Charles W. Eliot, Henry P. Davison, Myron T. Herrick, William Butterworth, Charles Hayden, Edward E. Loomis and other national leaders of similar caliber, the Association has provided one outstanding national, central place where anyone whether interested in privately-supported or tax-supported recreation for the community, or anyone concerned for individual or home and family recreation could turn for help.

The Association has stood for decentralization, has not attempted to control, has believed each city and town should make its own decisions in the recreation field.

The Association has succeeded in its nearly forty years of life in helping to secure recognition that recreation—with all that it means of culture, of music, of drama, of art, of sport, of simple children's play—is in America a great main division of life comparable with religion, labor, education, and health.

I like to think at this anniversary time that all that has been done through the years has been made possible because the ten thousand to sixteen thousand men and women who have cared have shared year after year directly in the support of the Association.

Howard Bracher

MAY 1943

May



Photo by Hirs-Graf Studios

Playground Programs—1943 Style

With mothers and fathers busy at war work, children are being left alone for many hours of the day. When schools close for the summer, where will they go? Understaffed and overworked playground directors must somehow meet this need with flexible, vitalized playground programs, 1943 style.

Junior Leaders in Raleigh

By HELEN CUTTING

Supervisor of Playgrounds

IN JULY 1942 Raleigh, North Carolina, officials found that the normal pool of qualified recreation leaders was being exhausted rapidly because of the critical need for manpower in other recreation agencies, related fields, and war industries.

The problem facing the local department was not only one of continuing the normal program under such conditions but that of extending the program to meet the impact of war activities.

In some cases a person untrained or inexperienced in all phases of the recreation program was forced to serve as a jack-of-all-trades leader. It was necessary for such leaders to circulate constantly from one activity to another, and it was becoming increasingly difficult, under such conditions, to stimulate and maintain interest in a well balanced activity program.

The local supervisor, observing a disorganized unit program resulting from these conditions, suggested that boys and girls on one play area select a leader from their own group to continue their activity until the playground leader made her next round.

The new experience proved successful, and this type of leadership soon spread to other groups within the unit. Junior leaders met regularly to exchange ideas and to learn new activities.

As the need for such leadership became evident at other centers junior leaders were assigned to assist with the establishment of similar groups. Members of these groups at each unit have been merged into a city-wide organization of junior leaders.

Membership in the junior leader organization is open to all boys and girls between the ages of ten and sixteen.

How to offer a varied activity program for an average of 9,000 or more participants weekly was a challenging problem for the Raleigh Recreation Department.

Candidates for membership are chosen for their outstanding sportsmanship by the participants. Final selections depend on endorsements by the unit staff members in regard to dependability, aptitudes, and willingness to accept training.

After final approval candidates are recognized as junior assistants for two weeks. During this period of trial each serves as an apprentice to a junior leader after which he is accepted or rejected by a vote of the junior leaders organization at its next meeting. Failure to make the grade does not bar a youngster from having another trial. Failure has been due to illness or absence from the center to accompany parents on out-of-town trips.

Training of junior leaders is now offered at the city-wide staff meeting on Saturday mornings and is also attended by paid leaders. At this time the combined group plans activity programs, discusses problems, and learns new activities. A flexible program for the following week is planned and leadership responsibilities for each individual are agreed upon.

The joint meeting of paid and junior leaders has proved satisfactory. Adult members of the group realize that junior leaders have a real contribution to make since they are more keenly aware of the interest of the boys and girls.

Experience has proved that the youngsters can be depended upon to assist with program planning and conducting activities, to keep play areas well marked, to assist with special events, and select a news reporter for the week. The youngster feels that he is a member of the group and participates with enthusiasm and responsibility.

The biggest project undertaken by the junior leaders was the organizing of the Junior Commando Group. These boys and girls collected scrap and waste fats, kept younger children for mothers who volunteered for special work at the Filter Center and Red Cross Room. The afternoon newspaper co-sponsored the Commandos by

furnishing armbands and publicity. The playground leaders and junior leaders kept records of collection, called special meetings and did all organizing. A Colonel was selected by the leader and formed his own company of twenty-five. These Commandos could advance in rank from Private to Sergeant and on up to Colonel by either meeting the set amount of scrap to be collected, or by services rendered to war workers. Then the Colonel formed his own company.

A number of boys and girls from different sections of the city were awarded camperships to Sherwood Forest, a non-profit low cost camping program made possible by the WPA Recreation Program, the Raleigh and Durham City Recreation Program, and a Camp Committee of civic club members. The campers were selected by the junior leaders and playground supervisors for their outstanding sportsmanship, willingness to assist with playground program and general conduct. Over seventy-five youngsters were awarded camperships.

This method of awarding camperships proved so successful and served to enliven interest in the playground to such an extent that it will be used again this summer.

A Playground Day Camp

By TELURA SWIM
Superintendent of Recreation
Piedmont, California

WHEN OUR overnight camps, which have functioned for six years and have been one of the highlights of Piedmont's recreation program, became impossible under the handicaps of the present emergency, we substituted the idea of a day camp, primitive style, on the Wildwood Playground.

Each Thursday, from June to September 15th, we held this camp. The children arrived at 9:30 in the morning, bringing

blankets, utensils, and food for lunch and dinner. A grill on this ground made the preparation of hot food possible.

The opening program was the salute to the flag and patriotic exercises, followed by very simple group instruction in first aid. After this, handcraft held interest until lunch time. The children cooked their own lunches and a large number of mothers joined them at the long playground tables with lunches which they had brought from home.

After lunch the children spread their blankets on the grass under a beautiful aisle of palm trees for the rest period, while the mothers engaged in volleyball and basketball. Athletic games followed the rest period until dinner time at 5:00, and at 6:00 a group of dirty, happy children left the play-



From Paterson, New Jersey



ground with keen anticipation for the next camp day.

During vacation several dramatic broadcasts and interviews were given to advertise the playground program. Children from four years of age through the sixth grade participated with the directors.

Puppetry was an important division of the handcraft work on camp days and was given by an expert who had exhibited her shows and puppet making at the "Fair for Forty" at Treasure Island. This and other camp day activities made attractive broadcasting publicity for the Recreation Department and built up the attendance to an astonishing number.

This change in our vacation program last summer proved so popular that we intend to repeat it in the summer of 1943.

A Roving Play Center in Salt Lake City

AN INTERESTING experiment in establishing play centers in neighborhoods at a distance from parks and other organized play areas was made last summer in Salt Lake City, Utah, when the Roving Play Center was initiated.

Through the cooperation of the Commissioner of Parks, Mr. Fred Tedesco, who is greatly interested in recreation, an old circus wagon belonging to the Department of Parks and Public Property was painted inside and out and put into shape for

immediate use. The Roving Play Center made it possible to add four play centers to the list of the city's playgrounds.

The wagon was moved by truck from one location to another, and "roving" was limited to the late evening so that the daily program would not be disturbed. Inside the wagon were four tables with checker boards painted on them, eight benches, two wooden workbenches, tools for handcraft, balls and bats, horseshoes, nets, paints, paper and pencils, scissors, and other material.

Last summer the location was changed every two days. At one location, under some large trees, four swings, two teeter boards, and a sand box were set up. At

two of the stops where electricity was available, the boys and girls enjoyed an open air picture show with the department's 16 mm. movie machine.

Joe L. Christensen, Superintendent of Public Recreation, reports that the Roving Play Center was a great success and its arrival was always eagerly awaited by the children.

After-School Playgrounds in Reading, Pa.

FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS the Department of Public Playgrounds and Recreation of Reading, Pennsylvania, has maintained after-school playgrounds under WPA leadership. When this service was discontinued early in 1943, the judge of the Juvenile Court and the Playground Federation, made up of thirty-two neighborhood parents' associations, requested the Mayor and City Council to provide additional funds to reopen the play centers and provide leadership for them. The request was based on the increase in juvenile delinquency in the city.

The response from the City Council was favorable, and \$2,700 was appropriated to the Board of Recreation. With this money ten after-school playgrounds were opened on April 19th to be continued until June 23rd, for five days a week. The hours are from 4:00 to 6:00 and from 6:30 to 9:00 P. M.

The after-school playground program at these centers is as follows:

Week April 19th —

1. Organize volleyball and softball teams
2. Contact Parents Playground Association
3. Play active games
4. Playgrounds closed April 23rd, Good Friday

Week April 26th —

1. Roller skating contests—April 26th, 4:00 P. M.
2. Play paddle tennis
3. Conduct marble tournaments

Week May 3rd —

1. National Music Week—encourage singing
2. Rope jumping contest
3. Run-the-bases tournament; softball pitching contest

Week May 10th —

1. Nature Week—play nature games
2. Junior track meet
3. Hopscotch tournament

Week May 17th —

1. Wagon and scooter contests
2. Jackstones tournament
3. Dodge ball tournament

Week May 24th —

1. Memorial Day patriotic evening, May 28th
2. Tug-of-war contest
3. Doll show

Week May 31st —

1. Family fun night
2. Stilt contest
3. Dress up show

Week June 7th —

1. Hold hobby show
2. Fox hunt
3. O'Leary contest

Week June 14th —

1. Hold Flag Day exercises
2. Flower show
3. Bicycle rodeo

Week June 21st —

1. Scavenger hunt
2. Check supplies and equipment
3. Spring playgrounds close 23rd.
4. Summer playgrounds open June 24th.

Fiesta in Columbus

By EDWINA WOOD
Recreation Superintendent

THE PLAYGROUNDS in Columbus, Georgia, carried out "A Good Neighborhood" program during the summer of 1942. The theme was selected by members of the staff several months before. Each playground chose a country of South America and each leader was asked to read up on that country, noting such characteristics as games, music, handcraft, mode of dress and anything that could be worked out on a playground.

The leaders entered into the research enthusiastically and with fine results. The handcraft was most interesting and the folk games played were attractive. Altogether we felt that the children had a happy time and,

Columbus, Georgia, also celebrated "I Am An American" Day with a colorful pageant. Here Uncle Sam and Miss America review the 48 states.



as a by-product, had gained worth-while information.

Each playground gave a demonstration on its own area and invited mothers and neighbors. Then all playgrounds came together the last of the summer and presented a Fiesta. We chose a spot on one of our playfields for the final performance. Each playground had its own booth, flying the flag of the country which they represented and displaying handcraft. Some children were designated to stay in each booth to act as "so-called salesmen." Others moved to and fro from booth to booth as "would-be buyers."

The children participating in the program were grouped around each booth and the booths were arranged in a semicircle which served as a background for the Fiesta.

Leaders and children were all simply costumed. We used a public address system to keep the audience informed as to what country was performing and what was being presented. Each leader wrote a simple prologue describing the country her playground represented. We afterwards displayed the best of the handcraft in one of the big show windows downtown.

The program was successful, first from point of enjoyment and then for the information gleaned.

The Program

"Down South America Way"—

Song by Rose Hill children representing Bolivia
Dance—By Chilean children from Peabody Playground

Flag Drill—Red, white, and blue colors of Paraguay, by the Oglethorpe Playground

Golden Cornstalk Goes Home—Play acted by children of East Highland Playground

Tango—Dance of Argentine, done by Rose Hill Heights

Historical Pageant of Peru—pantomimed by Spanish, Indians, and Peruvians from Linwood

Mexican Hat Dance—National Dance of Mexico, danced by St. Elmo's children

"Ticolote de Guana"—Spanish song sung by two Venezuelans from East Highland

Shinny—Game played in Colombia—McIlhenny Playground

La Conga—Danced by Rose Hill children as danced in Bolivia

"South of the Border"—Song of Mexico, sung by St. Elmo Playground

Rhythm Orchestra—by Wynnton children representing Brazil

Indian Dance—from Ecuador—danced by North Highlands

"Cielito Lindo"—Song sung by Oglethorpe Playground as Paraguayans

La Conga—danced as in Brazil by the Wynnton children

The Donkey—Story pantomimed by children of Ecuador from North Highland Playground

Dance—Fiesta dance from Colombia by McIlhenny Playground

Historical Pantomime—Christ of the Andes—by Peabody and Rose Hill Heights

America the Beautiful—Ensemble



Dearborn Converts Vacant Lots for Children

By HENRY D. SCHUBERT
Superintendent of Recreation

BECAUSE of the great number of mothers who have left their homes for war work, the city of Dearborn, Michigan, is

faced with the necessity of developing neighborhood organizations to share in the task of supervising the play and activities of children at the city's tot lots.

During the 1942 summer season eight tot lots were placed in operation in scattered residential sections throughout Dearborn. The city acquired these tax delinquent vacant lots and many others for recreational purposes through a scavenger sale held in 1940 by the State Land Office Board. These play lots are comprised of two to ten city residential lots varying in size from 35 x 100 feet to 50 x 140 feet each.

The eight tot lots used last summer have all been landscaped with shade trees and shrubs and enclosed with cyclone fencing. Signs prohibiting the playing of ball are posted at each of these areas.

Tot lots now in use have play apparatus installed including slides, swings, teeters, sand boxes, together with picnic tables and outdoor grills.

Fathers, mothers, and older brothers and sisters bring small children to these tot lots at all hours of the day. Many bring their lunches during the noon hour and at evening mealtime. Families also prepare hot foods on the grills.

Because of the popularity of the tot lots the Recreation Department has completed plans for the establishment of ten new play spaces during the present season. Landscaping on these new sites was completed during the fall and winter, and the children's play apparatus is ready to be installed. This will give the small children of Dearborn eighteen tot lots for outdoor play.

It is interesting to note that residences adjoin each of these play spaces. After the program of last season, residents in other sections of the city began inquiring when their areas would be served with similar advantages for their children.

A special leadership institute is being held to teach parents and volunteer leaders methods of child psychology and methods of presenting games and simple craft projects.

Since these tot lot areas are intended primarily for preschool children, and because they serve as a substitute for the backyard or family lot, the city has acquired additional property for older children in the various neighborhoods.

"You know that the boy and girl who today is thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, cannot wait five, ten, twenty years until we convince the public of his needs so that sufficient money, leadership, and a completed program will be forthcoming for his summer living."—Louise Adler in *Adventuring Together*.



Courtesy Board of Recreation Commissioners, East Orange, N. J.

In a City of Homes

By WILLIAM H. RENISON

Supervisor of Recreation
San Marino, California

OURS IS A CITY of homes where community spirit is emphasized and where a well-balanced recreation program is conducted twelve months of the year for the 10,000 citizens. Approximately 1,500 children between the ages of 8 and 16 years attend our all-community recreation center.

San Marino city playground is considered by many authorities as one of the best equipped recreation centers in the country. We have two turf football fields, gymnasium and track, four outside asphalt basketball courts, five baseball diamonds, two volleyball and three tennis courts, two handball courts, an outside skee-koe, broad jump and high jump pits, two asphalt games courts and three outside badminton courts.

Our special summer playground program is well attended. We begin the annual play school with

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Powwow on the Playground

By LOUISE MARTIN KOSTENBADER

INDIANS! A word to stir the imagination. A word that intrigues any youth from nine to ninety. It suggests an endless variety of activity, ceremonies, and crafts, all of them highly adaptable to a recreation program. Is there anyone who hasn't played Indian, at one time or another—tracking imaginary animals, screaming war whoops, or gathering 'round a campfire for a council of war?

Our Newark playground unfortunately had a serious problem of attendance and we needed a new interest to draw the children. Two blocks away was a swimming pool which offered cooling inducements on a hot day. Also close by was a beautiful park, green and inviting. Quite naturally the youngsters trooped over there to play rather than to the playground. The problem was not only to attract the children but also to hold their interest. Perhaps Indians would turn the tide!

It all came about when the neighborhood library, which often entertained groups in its garden with talks about books, chose Indians as the topic for one afternoon. I heard of the program and persuaded some interested youngsters to go over to the garden with me.

The spirit of the American Indian has something proud to teach children. It can symbolize for them loyalty and strength, sportsmanship, and the fun of friendly competition. And it will keep young Indians out of mischief!

Why not carry over this worth-while book talk? But what could we do? Certainly the program must have action and competition and it must make the participants feel that they are acting like real In-

dians. Then and there we thought of an Indian Powwow.

Each prospective warrior must have a tribe to join and a tribal feather to wear. There would be four tribes: Blackfoot, Iroquois, Navajo, and Sioux. Feathers could be cut from poster paper, using a different color for each tribe. White crepe paper bands would hold the feathers in place. When the children arrived in droves, as we fervently hoped they would, they were to assemble in one long line, count off by fours, receive appropriate war plumes, and march off to find their chiefs.

The four chiefs would be appointed ahead of time. Every playground has a number of "stand-by" boys, and from them four could be chosen. Large signs with the name of each tribe were made to mark the four encampments.

Clutching his feather and band, each child would present himself and his services to his chief. The

tribal head would solemnly tie on the feather and the band, thus transforming the youngster into a warrior of the tribe. All would then join hands, form a circle, and sit cross-legged on the ground until the games began.

The Powwow sounded exciting enough on paper, but the big problem was to entice

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Recreation Goes Dramatic

The universal appeal of "play-acting" and its educational value provide a creative theme for this article which is reprinted from *The Physical Educator*, June, 1942, with the kind permission of the editors.

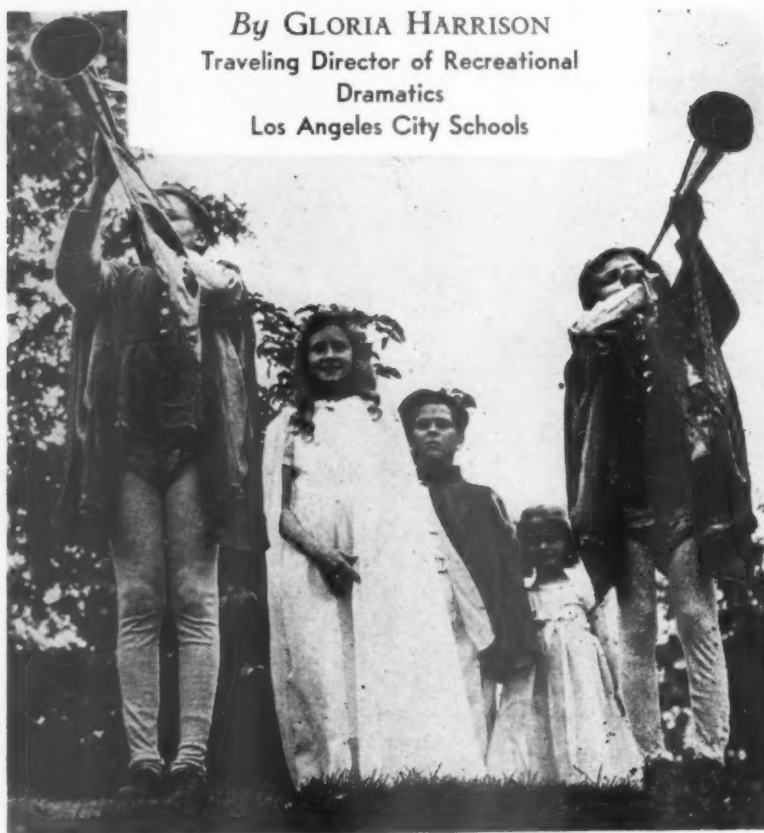
TODAY ON HUNDREDS of playgrounds all over the country boys and girls are experiencing the excitement, fascination and educational possibilities found in recreational dramatics. No other activity offers children as many opportunities in self-development along with wholesome pleasure as does the activity of recreational dramatics. This is because dramatics as an activity involves the use of so many other arts, such as handcraft, storytelling, music, and dancing.

Play is always serious to children. When playing they are living on their highest level, for in play more actual thinking goes on than in any other phase of their lives. For proof of this just watch small children in creative play where they are unaware of your presence. The earnest and concentrated expressions which fleet across their faces are at once both fascinating and puzzling to the average adult who has through years acquired a poker face or limits his facial expressions.

Dramatic play is that form of childish make-believe that centers around a social experience. It begins when a child pretends to be something or someone he is not, or pretends to be doing something he is not doing.

"Play-acting," and "Informal Dramatics," terms used generally for a type of dramatics, are perhaps two of the most popular means of dramatic play. Other types are Pantomime, used for tiny tots as a medium in developing self-expression; and Formal

By GLORIA HARRISON
Traveling Director of Recreational
Dramatics
Los Angeles City Schools



Courtesy Wyomissing, Pa., Grade School

Dramatics, used primarily with children of Junior High School age and older. The latter type involves the use of written scripts, stage scenery, lighting, costuming, and makeup. It also calls for a more finished production than other types.

Pageants and Festivals are types of dramatic play which call for the participation of large numbers of children and the addition of music, dancing, drills, mass groups, along with pantomime and dramatic staging. Because of this, and that the effect must be one of splendor and brilliance, pageants and festivals are more difficult to produce.

Each of the above mentioned types of dramatic play offers a particular benefit from an educational, physiological, cultural, and sociological standpoint. Until recently little thought had been given in our public schools and on our playgrounds to the advantages offered through dramatic play. For many "dramatics" is nothing more nor less than learning how to recite a pretty piece with gestures. There has been little concern with that more stimulating and satisfying type of dramatic activity which we know as "recreational."

From the recreational side there is the pleasure of adventure in the imaginations of the children through dramatics and creative play. Through "play-acting" small children lose their shyness, gain

self-confidence, develop poise, dignity and charm, acquire and develop a vocabulary beyond their years, develop muscular and mental coordination, acquire grace and a clear speaking voice through this activity.

Recreational Dramatics offer a new and fascinating world for children. Lines are not drilled into the minds of children as in a school lesson, but the story of the play and the idea of the dialogue is learned. The story given by the children in a play-form is informal, imaginative and quite like the old popular game of "Let's Pretend." Every child spends three-fourths of his child life in the game of "Let's Pretend"; no wonder the appeal of drama in one phase or another is universal. As man's first means of communication was through the art of pantomime, to make known his wants, it naturally follows that acting is one of our oldest arts.

Primitive man employed dancing and music in the worship of his deities. It is almost certain that poetry was added to these ceremonials and when properly developed he added dialogue. With the addition of dialogue he was well on his way toward civilization. He did not have to learn these things from anyone else, they were instinctive with him.

The promotion of the activity of dramatic art is very simple once the many opportunities for self-development have been taken into consideration.

The educational value of dramatics is apparent when children learn their lessons in literature, history and other studies through the dramatization and participation in creative dramatic play. Enacting stories based on history, science, literature, to name a few, brings to the child's mind an indelible impression of a lesson to be learned. Without consciously realizing it, through the art of extemporization, children develop and acquire a vocabulary. Children learn the importance of sharing, of "give and take," through cooperating and working together in rehearsing the play as a whole. To these may be added the development of tolerance, sportsmanship and patience.

The character of a child may be easily influenced by his playmates. To assume that he gains only self-expression and a medium for an emotional outlet through his participation in recreational dramatics would be to considerably limit this rich activity. The association of children with one

another, their teamwork in "play-acting" tends to teach children cooperation, understanding of persons and things through character portrayals in plays, to develop patience, self-discipline, and a better sportsmanship.

The wealth of play material which is available for recreational dramatics and its apparent effect on the child's mental development tends to serve also as a character influence.

Through observation of dramatic groups we have watched timid children slowly acquire self-confidence, and the exhibitionist gradually lose his air of braggadocio and become an emotionally normal child.

The importance of recreational dramatics and its direct and indirect effect on children form an emotional, physical, mental and spiritual development which cannot be considered too lightly.

Because of the great social and racial strata which participate in the activity of dramatic art, it contributes to the ideology of democracy.

Physiologically dramatic play stimulates mental and physical alertness, the coordination of both mind and body and very often corrects speech defects and nervous mannerisms.

Through the correlation of music, drama, dancing, costuming and art crafts a culture and a knowledge of the cultural arts is obtained.

In listing the educational advantages to be derived from the activity of dramatic art nothing was given of the pleasure value which it affords. The joy which children receive from play-acting is difficult to measure. The joy is natural, spontaneous and wholly satisfying. The fact that children live vicariously the many characters they portray gives them a better understanding of human nature. To play the role of something or someone you are not, has a tremendous fascination for both young and old.

To be in a play or to play the game of "Let's Pretend" with some child, is indeed a rich experience, one which none should miss.

"The reason why children impersonate so many and such various things . . . is that all the world seems to them to be alive. Thus all their dramatic play is social in a sense; they are all true citizens of the world, and every object that interests them is their friend and playmate."—*Joseph Lee.*

"The sense of play-acting is developed very early in children and springs quite naturally from the sense of play. They enjoy their own made-up games and plays themselves—they enjoy acting them out for their elders."—John Farrar.

At Burlingame's Play Centers

Mother-volunteers help to run a successful play center and children's theater in this California community

"HOW MUCH TIME can you give us?" This is the question asked of the mother who brings her child to the preschool play center established by the Recreation Department of Burlingame, California, where no charges are made, but payment takes the form of service contributed by the mother.

The preschool play center was organized in the spring of 1942 mainly to release mothers of young children for Red Cross classes, A.W.V.S. work, and similar activities. Any child in the community from three to five years old is eligible to attend the center, which is open from Monday through Friday, from 9:30 to 11:30.

A child may attend two days weekly, plus an extra day for every day's service its mother gives the Recreation Department or other group such as the Red Cross or Scouts. Mothers in large numbers take advantage of this plan and volunteer for many hours' work at Recreation Department headquarters, at the Children's Theater, and at the play center itself. These volunteers and the A.W.V.S. assistants who serve at the center are given in-service training by the director of the center.

Most of the furniture and equipment at the center was donated by the schools and indi-

viduals. Some money was given for the purchase of equipment, but much of it was made from used materials by staff members and volunteer workers. The large hollow blocks, for example, which are by far the most popular equipment at the center, were made from old ping-pong tables and painted in bright colors. A playhouse and outside storage room was formerly one of the sturdy little houses used by the city to cover large pumps and meters. This was a contribution of the Water Department.

Red Cross volunteer nurses inspect the children daily and no child is allowed to mingle with the other children if for any reason he misses this examination or shows symptoms of illness. As a further precaution, the city health officer has made careful inspection of facilities, has given instruction in the proper sterilization of the children's drinking glasses, and has made suggestions for keeping facilities sanitary and safe. These health measures are most important and no colds or contagious diseases were ever found to have started at the play center.

This volunteer helper has two small sons of her own at the preschool play center



While most of the children's play is out of doors, two adjoining rooms of the recreation building have been furnished and equipped for use on bad days. Adjacent to the building is an abandoned paddle tennis area which makes an ideal play space. The surface is level and dry, and since a high fence still surrounds the court, the children are safe. In this area are found a playhouse, a sand box and other equipment consisting mainly of boards, large hollow blocks, housekeeping articles, chairs and table, and some



Children from the workshop group made this scenery from unbleached muslin and painted it with texolite. They made all the props from waste material.

wheel toys such as buggies, tricycles and wagons.

The day's program in the preschool play center is as follows:

- Health inspection
- Hang up coats and put away blankets
(Children bring blankets and take them home daily)
- Pour and drink water
- Outdoor play—active, creative, large muscle play
- Toilet
- More outdoor play
- Rest
- Quiet activities—stories, coloring, singing, rhythms

Carriage House Finds New Use

A large carriage house on the property of the central recreation center houses the Children's Theater. The garage section is now the workshop; the former laundry, the costume room; and the upstairs loft, a miniature playhouse with an auditorium seating eighty-two children, and a stage 24 feet long and 20 feet deep. The playhouse is used for all rehearsals and workshop activities, and for productions having small or minimum size casts. Plays with casts of more than thirty-five children are produced in the city's elementary schools. If a play is presented in a school auditorium, only two performances are given, whereas at the miniature playhouse there are at least four performances.

The children taking part range in age from five to fourteen years, with the average age from nine to twelve. All who come to the tryouts are given

a part in the play if the story calls for extra fairies, villagers, or

gnomes. In plays with limited casts, two children are cast for the same role, each taking part in at least one performance. If necessary, a second play is cast at the same time so that all who wish may participate.

The children not only take part in plays but also assist in the making of scenery and costumes. Each actor is responsible for a share in the technical side of the production, and many children never appear on the stage itself but are part of the stage crew. Costumes are used over and over again and are frequently remodeled by the girls in the cast and in the costume department. Since the theater was established, between 600 and 700 children have taken part in its various activities.

The plays produced are usually adaptations of well known stories such as "Cinderella," "Princess and the Seven Swans," "Catskin," "Snow White and Rose Red," "Treasure Island," and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." Music for the Christmas play is usually supplied by a trained choir and the elementary school orchestra. Folk dancers trained by a member of the Recreation Department staff sometimes appear in productions. In producing plays as many arts as possible are used on stage and off.

War conditions have resulted in many additions to the program and have brought about increased activity and participation. Additional wartime

activities of the Children's Theater are along the line of community service to civilian defense groups. Children, appropriately costumed, carry banners announcing bond sales and salvage drives, produce defense playlets for adult groups, and make posters and banners for the civilian defense activities.

Junior Players Club

The Junior Players Club has been formed for junior high school age boys and girls to serve civilian defense needs and provide social recreation for the members themselves. The boys and girls hold a monthly meeting at which they discuss plans and enjoy some type of entertainment such as skits and games. At the last meeting they had a spelling bee in which they spelled the words backwards. The group, which is entirely self-governing, is responsible for the stage crew and ushers for all shows. If the chairman of an activity should fall down on his job, the title and privileges are immediately taken away by a vote of the group.

As a part of its defense job the Junior Players club puts on its own plays about such subjects as hoarding and salvage, and assists at bond sales and drives of various kinds when their help is requested. Officers are elected semi-annually and the officers and committee chairmen have special supper meetings and parties on their own. These supper parties, scheduled for every other month, are held from 5 to 7:30 P. M. so that they will be over before a blackout threatens. Each child brings his own supper and the club supplies extra refreshments. There are no club dues but each child pays for his share of the party with a 10-cent limit. Games and dances are the order of the evening.

Six to eight plays, including one or two puppet plays and defense plays, are given during the school year, and one is presented every other week during the summer vacation, in addition to other special activities.

The Children's Theater, now two years old, is a municipally supported project and is a special division of the Recreation Department, which provides its operating budget and pays the salary of the director who is a member of the department staff.

Each production is practically self-supporting from admission fees of 10 cents for children and 26 cents for adults, federal tax included. A large

"With our small staff it is difficult for us to serve all age groups, but as we draw into the program more and more interested volunteers, we hope to be able to serve all."—Shirley Smith, Supt. of Recreation in Burlingame.

annual benefit for theater equipment is put on by a lay advisory board of twelve interested citizens who determine the operating policies of the theater and take an active part in activities. Since the begin-

ning of the war, board members have not only been in charge of the box office, but have acted as combination hostesses and air raid wardens at each performance. Board members and parents have also taken on additional duties in the way of typing scripts, making costumes, and chaperoning the children.

City Recreation Program

Burlingame, according to the 1940 census, has a population not exceeding 16,000, but the recreation program in this California city has made gratifying progress. The city is very proud of its central recreation center—the old Gunst estate, which contains a large number of shrubs and trees more than sixty years old. The estate residence, built at a cost of more than \$100,000, has been remodeled as an adult service center and other buildings on the property are being used to house such activities as the children's theater. At the present time two new areas are being developed—one about ten acres in extent; the other, two acres.

At the present time the staff consists of the superintendent, one part-time playground leader, one half-time physical education supervisor and playground leader, one full-time children's theater director, and three special activity leaders, all paid by the city. The School Department furnishes after-school leaders for three school playgrounds.

Seventh and eighth grade children are active in all the current sports, games, and leagues on parks and playgrounds. Social dancing, especially folk dancing, has been taught for this age group. During 1941 the Recreation Department leaders taught the children during school time as a cultural unit. This year, however, in order to serve more children teachers are being encouraged to attend the Department's folk dancing groups for adults so that they will be able to teach the children with some assistance from the Recreation Department. Social dances for children are being held after school instead of in the evening this year because of dimout regulations. The Recreation Department

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Any Stamps Today?

"A TWENTY-FIVE cent war savings stamp will

buy the equivalent of a dozen bandages for the armed forces. One steel helmet costs \$3.03. Twenty dollars will buy a battleship flag."—With such simple, easy-to-understand facts playground leaders will explain to boys and girls this summer the need for buying war savings stamps, the same kind of stamps they have been buying regularly in school all winter.

During the school year boys and girls by the millions have acquired the habit of buying war stamps every week. In 1941-42 these children purchased over \$8,000,000 in stamps. The U.S. Treasury Department has requested the help of all playgrounds in the country this summer to give boys and girls a chance to continue this direct participation in the war.

In conferences between the Treasury De-

The schools have been doing their part all winter. Now it's up to the playgrounds!

partment and the National Recreation Association suggestions have been worked out

to help recreation executives and playground leaders organize and carry out a war savings program.

Organization of Program

A sponsoring committee of parents, children, and leaders will be needed on each playground. If well organized, this group can enlist the support of the entire neighborhood and take over much of the detail work from already-busy playground leaders.

An immediate job for such a committee is visiting the schools and making certain that all students know where and when stamps will be on sale during the summer. The committee can make an in-

vestigation of the best day or days of the week for the sale of stamps.

Boys and girls in York, Pennsylvania, decorated their Playground Traveling Theater with red, white, and blue and converted it into a War Stamp booth



It may be wise to sell stamps on the playgrounds on the same day of the week which the schools have been using.

Before schools close the committee will want to set up the advance publicity campaign with the cooperation of local newspaper and radio officials. Posters and other display materials can be made in art classes or obtained ready-made from local or state war savings officials. The committee should also make any other necessary arrangements with these officials. A complete list of state war savings administrators was published in a recent issue of the *Recreation Bulletin Service*, and a copy of the list may be secured by writing the National Recreation Association.

A stamp selling booth for the playground will make a good craft project for boys and girls. In the May 1942 issue of *RECREATION*, Marguerite Ickis gave directions for making a three-paneled screen which can be used very effectively as a playground booth. It may now be necessary to substitute scrap lumber or heavy cardboard for the materials suggested in the article which is entitled "Some Novel Play Equipment." With all the war savings publicity material available, it will be an easy matter to decorate the booths attractively.

A list of war equipment and the cost of each item has been prepared by the Treasury Department to help leaders interest the children in the war savings program. The equipment ranges from the 25 cent bandages to a \$450,000 flying fortress and a \$500,000 submarine chaser. Somewhere in this list every playground can find an item which it wants to work toward. With such goals boys and girls on the playgrounds will have an added interest in buying stamps. The complete list of equipment with current costs of each item has also been sent out with the *Bulletin Service*, and extra copies are available from the Association.

"Buy a Jeep" Campaign

Highlighting the war savings program with a "Buy a Jeep" Campaign cannot help but stir the imaginations of playground boys and girls. Any playground raising \$900 within a specified length of time to "buy a jeep" will be awarded a Jeep Certificate by the state war savings administrator. The campaign must have a definite opening and closing date, and playgrounds must succeed in reaching their goal within this period. Playgrounds which qualify should send details of the drive, properly certified by the superintendent of recreation, to the state war savings office.

Those which make outstanding records, such as 90 per cent of the children buying stamps each week, will be awarded a Treasury Certificate. Application for such certificates must also be made to the state office. Such an application must include the following information:

Enrollment at playground
Number buying stamps weekly
Per cent of enrollment buying stamps
Total purchases to date
Name of playground
Date

Many recreation departments have already cooperated actively in the sale of stamps and bonds. Members of the staff of the Pasadena, California, Department of Recreation conducted a five-hour variety program in the downtown business district, selling stamps and bonds as the "price of admission." The Alton, Illinois, Recreation Department sold stamps in the playgrounds last summer every Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

The Park and Playground Department in St. Paul, Minnesota, sold bonds and stamps at last summer's community sings. So did the recreation departments in Gainesville, Florida; Newton, Massachusetts; and Buffalo, New York. Highlight of the program in Houston, Texas, was a "War Bond Softball Tournament." Children and adults bought \$518.60 worth of stamps and bonds in eight weeks on the Danville, Illinois, playgrounds. In Reading, Pennsylvania, the program was accelerated by a war bond slogan contest.

A mammoth athletic tournament was sponsored by the Memphis, Tennessee, Department of Recreation to promote the sale of war bonds. As a climax to the program, the ball used in the finals of the basketball tournament was auctioned off to the highest bidder for war bonds. It went for \$10,000.

The Department of Parks and Public Recreation in Phoenix, Arizona, is promoting the sale of war stamps and bonds among the citizens by selling them at Sunday afternoon concerts held in one of the local parks.

These are a few of the ways — many of them original and ingenious — in which recreation departments have cooperated in the war savings program in the past. This summer, playgrounds across the country face a new challenge as the Treasury Department asks for broader and more intensive programs of cooperation to help raise the money to win the war.

Day Camping

THE NUMBER of day camps could be increased appreciably by greater utilization of near-by national, state, county, and municipal park land and facilities.

"Reputable agencies and individuals interested in camping are encouraged by the various park services to make full use of camp sites and facilities on public lands. In many cases these locations are near enough to communities to make day camping possible. The accessibility factor will be important during the national crisis since transportation problems will be encountered. The use of public parks for day camping is usually granted to reliable organizations upon proper application to governing authorities. In most instances the operating agency is requested to present satisfactory evidence of its ability to meet certain minimum standards. These standards in reality are guides to better camping through consideration of leadership, health and safety precautions, and desirable motives of the sponsoring agencies."

This statement appeared in an article entitled "Fitness Through Day Camping" by William M. Grimshaw, which was published in the March 1943 issue of *The Journal of Health and Physical Education*. Mr. Grimshaw's suggestion about the availability of camp sites on park lands is borne out by L. B. Houston, Director of Parks, Dallas, Texas, who tells of a plan of cooperation with the Boy Scout organization of this city whereby "Close In" camp sites are being provided by the Park Board for camps within walking distance of the homes of various troop members or accessible by established street railway and bus lines. This, it is hoped, will make it possible to continue the camping program in spite of the fact that gas rationing is making it impossible to use the Scouts' regular camp this summer.

The Park Board has set aside five sites in public parks, distributed geographi-

"Realizing that camping activities contribute effectively to the physical and social well-being of youth, an all-out effort should be made for their provision. The success of such an effort could be realized in part through an accelerated day camp movement. The organized day camp has great potentialities and could assume an important role in the extension of camping services."

—William M. Grimshaw.

cally, to serve each section, and has prepared detailed maps which have been incorporated in a mimeographed camping manual prepared by the Dallas Boy Scouts and distributed to each Scoutmaster.

Although the sites were designated primarily for the benefit of organized Scout outings, they will also be available to any organized group of youngsters who might like to avail themselves of these facilities.

In issuing the sites the Park Department asks that the following requirements be complied with (these requirements have been incorporated in the camping manual):

1. Do not cut any trees or shrubs. Dead trees and limbs on the ground may be used for firewood.
2. Exercise every precaution to prevent fires which would prove disastrous to the natural beauty of all of these tracts.
3. Follow your usual high standards in maintaining good sanitary conditions around the camp sites; particularly, in the matter of disposing of body waste.
4. Require that any troop or troops using these sites obtain reservations from your office in order to avoid conflicts. It may be desirable at a later date to require that reservations be made through your established channels.
5. Be sure that the "Scouters" are restricted to the park controlled areas shown on the sketches. Trespassing on adjoining private property could cause serious trouble.



Print by Gedge Harmon

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Storytelling as a Morale-BUILDER for Children

By **DESSA M. FULTZ**
Recreation Director
Los Angeles City Schools

CHILDREN everywhere are feeling the nervous tension that is one product of the war. Even American children, who thus far have happily been spared first-hand knowledge of horrors of war, have these horrors rather constantly kept in their minds by means of the radio, newspapers, and the conversation of their elders. They hear and read of bombings, sabotage, bloodshed. They see war pictures at the movies. Another factor that makes for tension is the fact that, in all too many cases, the child's home is not the best possible for his well-being. Often, nowadays, both parents work, being away long hours and leaving the children of the family to look after themselves, or in the care of some person unfitted for the task.

This is inevitable; the result of present conditions, in our warring world. But it places a heavy responsibility upon the shoulders of those men and women who have been trained to work with children, guarding their health and endeavoring to develop them physically, mentally and spiritually, by means of recreational activity. We must do all

This article, reprinted by courtesy of the editors of *The Physical Educator*, appeared in the January 1943 issue of that magazine. Our readers may recall that the August 1942 issue of *Recreation* contained the article, "Storytelling Steps onto a Suitcase Stage," of which Mrs. Fultz was coauthor.

that we did before our country was at war, plus the immensely important business of keeping up the children's morale.

Just what do we mean by morale? Well, that dependable authority, Noah Webster, defines it as: "The moral condition, or the condition in other respects, so far as it is affected by or dependent upon

such moral factors as zeal, spirit, hope, confidence, etc.; mental state of a body of men, an army, and the like."

This definition makes it sound important. It is. It has always been considered of great importance by military leaders. Napoleon is quoted as having said that ninety per cent of a soldier's efficiency depended upon his morale. If this was true in his time, it is doubtless true today. And if it be our duty to do what we can to keep up the morale of our fighting men, it certainly is no less our duty with respect to the generation of children for whose right to live in a decent world these men are fighting. We dare not allow those who are going to have to cope with the world problems which will



Courtesy Recreation Department, Austin, Texas

follow the war, to suffer a let-down in morale now, in this, the formative period of their young lives. We must do all in our power to see to it they have "vim, vigor and vitality," not merely of body, but also of spirit.

How? Here is where the trained storyteller finds a golden opportunity. Any fairly intelligent person can tell a story after a fashion, but it takes years of training to do it so as to get the best results. The average child has a vivid imagination. The aim of the conscientious storyteller is to direct that imagination into the proper channels, instilling in the young listeners emotions that will inspire them with a desire to be brave, honest, kind, loyal and patriotic. It can be done. It *is* being done, in countless cases, as every successful storyteller has had experiences to prove.

I, myself, have had many. For instance, when I was visiting one of our playgrounds recently, I was halted by a pleasant voice calling: "Hello, Story Lady!"

I looked up. The speaker, a tall young man in army uniform, impressed me as vaguely familiar in appearance.

"You must be one of my story-hour boys grown up," I guessed.

"You bet I am," he answered. "I used to sit on the ground at your feet when there weren't chairs enough to go 'round—and I'll do it now if you'll tell me the story of 'The Jawbone Telegraph,' or 'The Sardinian Drummer Boy,' or 'The Red Badge of Courage.' It's funny! I've never forgotten those stories."

I asked him *why* he hadn't.

He thought a minute, then said: "Well, I suppose it must be because the boys in those stories were very brave."

A younger boy, listening-in, spoke up. "That's the reason I like 'The Broken Note' the best of any story. That Polish boy wasn't afraid to blow that trumpet, even when he knew the Monguls would kill him. After I heard that story, I read the rest of the book, *The Trumpeter of Krakow*. It's swell! And say! I just bet you the Poles get their country back from Hitler—the same as they got it back then. And I think anybody who'd heard that story would be ashamed to be a coward, or not to be willing to do all he could for his country. I'm buying war stamps and collecting scrap for the government now; and when I'm old enough . . ." He paused to give the young soldier

an admiring look. "When I'm old enough," he repeated, "I'll be a soldier, too."

To one who has had such heart-warming experiences as the one I've related, it is somewhat exasperating to hear people speak of storytelling as if they regarded it as mere entertainment for children. Of course it is entertainment. But not mere entertainment. Rightly done, by a storyteller who loves his work, it is character-building.

A question often asked is why children are told stories rather than encouraged to read for themselves. The answer is that no one denies the fact they should be encouraged to read. But to the beginning reader the effort it takes to follow print occupies so much attention it interferes with the free range of imagination. Until he has learned to read easily, the child cannot change places, mentally, with the hero of the story to ride away on a magic carpet to thrilling adventure. He cannot

assume the role of the story-character, and perform brave deeds, solve mysteries and rescue people in distress. In short, he misses many of the emotional reactions the storyteller wishes him to experience.

They are great posers, children; and one of their commonest poses, especially with small boys, is that of stoic. The average small boy will assure you he is not afraid of anything. Not he! Bring on your danger! See if he's scared! Bless his heart, he is afraid of many things. His very braggadocio is a cover for fear. Somebody has said: "Man's life is an alternating day and night; the sheer joy of living, then the shadow of doubt. One moment is exultation, one moment despair." This was written of the adult human, but I think it more nearly describes the see-saw moods of children, who do not understand why their spirits go up, then down. Their bewilderment frequently leads to what we call juvenile delinquency. We can be thankful that they *are* so apt to see themselves, mentally, in the role of their favorite story characters, because that gives the storyteller an opportunity to direct their thoughts into wholesome channels.

It is not necessarily or solely from stories of courage that children have been cured of some particular fear which weakened their morale. A friend told me that, when he was a little boy he was terribly afraid of snakes. Then he heard some

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Substitute for a Saloon



Chicago Daily News Photo

The story of a unique youth center at Watseka, Illinois, is told here in extracts from articles written by a staff correspondent for the *Chicago Daily News*. Story and pictures are reprinted by permission of the publishers of the *Daily News*.

By PENCE JAMES

IT ISN'T FROM CHOICE that boys hang around street corners at night and that girls and their escorts go into saloons. They do so only because there is no place else to go.

This is an axiom in Watseka, Illinois. Because of it, the Youth Center was opened in the exclusive Iroquois Club building. How the people of this community decided to do something about the saloon-youth problem and then resolutely did it is a story worth telling.

Until December 1, 1942, the Iroquois Club of Watseka was a kind of downtown country club. In its \$50,000 colonial-style brick building, a block off the main street, those with means met for recreation and social activities. They had bowling alleys and ping-pong tables in the basement, a lounge and billiard room on the main floor and a ballroom on the top floor.

The Iroquois Club is more than twenty-five years old. In recent years it had declined, the depression rubbed off much of the exclusiveness, and the gay, carefree atmosphere dissolved. Eventually activities dwindled to virtually nothing.

In the meantime high school students were congregating in saloons—which, despite the fact that they are comparatively harmless spots in Watseka, are hardly the proper atmosphere for high school youth. Boys stood on the street corners in the evenings not knowing what else to do or where else to go.

The darkened rooms of the saloons worried parents, police, teachers and ministers. They decided to act, and looked to the Iroquois Club.

\$3,000 Needed for Project

It was decided that \$3,000 would be needed for the project. This amount and more was quickly subscribed, principally by businessmen. Even the saloon owners contributed.

With the money safely in hand the committee approached the Iroquois Club management on the use of the club facilities. A financial arrangement was worked out so that the Youth Center would contribute \$2,250 a year and the Iroquois Club \$750 and the building to the cost of maintenance.

The appeal of belonging to "a club" caught hold immediately. Membership cards for \$1 a year were issued to all high school students who applied.

And the Watseka Youth Center was launched to combat the saloon and the night club menace.

"This Youth Center," said Mayor H. W. Bradshaw, "is the best thing that ever happened to Watseka youth. It's cut down delinquency noticeably. Young people are all right and will behave themselves if you give them something to keep them busy.

"The Youth Center is the answer to the problem. We've had so much success with it here that other near-by towns have sent committees to interview us and investigate our methods."

The Mayor was standing in the front entrance lobby of the clubhouse. High school boys and girls were coming in the door, stopping at a desk behind which sat Meta Kielsmeier, secretary of a dairy products firm and one of the business women who have helped make the Youth Center a success. Miss Kielsmeier, chairman of the supervision committee, inspected the membership cards of the students—the only means of admission to the Center.

Open Three Nights a Week

It was Tuesday night—one of three nights in the week that the club is open to the high school students. The hours are 7 to 10. On Friday and Saturday nights they come in from 7 to 11:30. The Center is also open on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. At all other hours it reverts to the Iroquois Club for adults.

The boys and girls drifted into the lounge, where some talked, some played cards and others, strangely, did their homework. Some, both boys and girls, played pool in the billiard room.

Watsseka's high school students built their own soft drink lounge complete with gaily-colored booths

"No teen age boy or girl in America should grow up afraid of the future. We must help them to meet it, and to know how to face it as it comes—realistically and intelligently. The 'terrible teens' of today will weave the pattern of the world of tomorrow. We want the warp and woof of that pattern to be strong and beautiful." — Virginia Musselman.

Boys and girls were downstairs bowling and playing ping-pong. Others were on the top floor dancing to the tunes of a never-stop juke box, which required no nickels for operation.

Always there is an adult present—very inconspicuous. The evening belongs to the youngsters, and the adult chaperon, by rule, "must be in sympathy with the ideals of the Center."

In a former kitchen on the main floor is a coke bar built by students in the industrial arts class of the school. There are gaily painted booths constructed by pupils. The curtains at the windows were made by sewing classes. In this way the students were made to feel that the club really belonged to them. Proceeds from soft drink sales go to school activities.

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Chicago Daily News Photo

Free Nations Mobilize Community Forces

IN AN ADDRESS at the Chicago Wartime Recreation Conference held in December, 1942, under the auspices of the Chicago Recreation Commission, Miss Charlotte Whitton of Canada spoke of the remarkable record made by England in the production of war materials.

"How has she done it? In her tremendous national unity, of course, in the refreshing pride of her task, in her deep realization of the horror of an authoritarian future. But let Ernest Bevin speak, in part, of where the answer lies:

"We have not paid too great a price. We are reaping the harvest of the foresight of those who laid

Miss Whitton's address appears in full in *Proceedings of the Chicago Wartime Recreation Conference*, copies of which are available at fifty cents each from the Municipal Reference Library, City Hall, Chicago.

the foundation of our social service schemes which have added to the virility and strength of the people and contributed to the manpower so essential now to defend liberty."

"And let the reports on industrial welfare and production speak, too. It was found that in a week of longer than sixty hours for men, fifty-six hours for women, fatigue outweighed any increased production, and so effort was redirected to saving the workers' time and strength by improving transport, to saving human fatigue by improving living conditions, to saving strain by providing foster care and meals for dependents of working mothers, and to developing various projects, especially canteen, consultation and recreation services in close contact with all works and undertakings.

"The Council for Encouragement of Music and the Arts, subsidized fifty-fifty by the Treasury, has been responsible for a wide development of drama, ballet and music, with remarkable participation of the people therein. A thirst for open-air entertainment is reported—a reaction against long hours in the shelters, under blackout, in the factories and mines. 'Ballets for a Bob'—one shilling—are sweeping lunchtime audiences for workers, and afternoon crowds for active service people on leave. 'Music Travelers' go out to advise local community and plant groups on organization of local talent or bringing in feature groups.

"The cinema is brought to the people by the 'Celluloid Circus,'



A party of WRENS share their afternoon "tea" with American servicemen "somewhere in England"

American Red Cross Photo

under which seventy mobile units tour the country, showing films in village halls and barns, in 'Midnight Matinees' in factories, and in mornings to children. This public venture works in cooperation with the commercial films.

"Painting has been widely promoted—from encouragement to leading artists, artists and amateurs in the services, down through organization of projects in the factories and schools. Librarians have been exempted from military services and library services widely adapted to special needs, branch libraries have been set up in schools, churches, and plants, and libraries have different hours on weekdays, stay open evenings and Sundays, make their cards interchangeable for war workers and service people, and take books 'for a spell' wherever they are needed.

"Community singing, special choirs, pantomimes are encouraged in the shelters, in special plants and groups, and in the services, with contests held between them. At the height of the blitz, when Owen's Hall was flattened, 10,000 people, unafraid, followed the great orchestra concerts to Albert Hall. Of the same spirit was Moscow's great orchestra, playing nightly to crowds with the Nazis within a few miles of the city.

"A 'Fitness for Service' scheme operated in over 230 centers for factory workers, designed to improve general health, physical and mental alertness, endurance and general efficiency.

"The radio has come in with its 'Music While You Work' programs broadcast to the factories in two half-hour periods daily. 'Works Wonders' programs have been evolved in which the workers take part themselves. The Medical Research Council has reported an increase in factory output of from 6.2 to 11.3 per cent over a measured period where these special projects have been introduced.

"Certainly of marked significance is the National Youth Committee whereby the central government shares fifty-fifty with the local authorities in projects for young people between fourteen and twenty years of age, and under which 144 of 146 Educational Authorities of the United Kingdom are participating. But the spontaneous Youth Service Corps or Squads are perhaps among the most unusual testimonies to the vitality and vim of a nation under fire.

"Originating in East Suffolk, the idea has spread like wildfire and there are hundreds of such groups today. They are entirely self-administered; their members are drawn from young people, usually at work, but pledged through their own choice to

give extra service to the nation through their 'Youth Squads.' The first squad organized offered to undertake no less than seventy-six different kinds of work of national value, from painting curbstones white, digging gun and searchlight emplacements, working for the Home Guard, gathering wild fruits, and (the girls) washing, darning and mending for the Forces and busy workers, to helping in stores after hours, cutting weeds, clerking in libraries, and washing windows for working housewives.

"'The V for Variety,' says Gracie Fields, 'has become as important as the V for Victory,' and certainly the diversity and extent of Britain's services would seem to reinforce her picturesque claim. This, the British Isles have learned under fire. We, in the more ordinary tenor of our ways, do not so clearly perceive war's impact on our people.

"Staying power today, strength in the long tomorrow, depend upon the people's confidence in the good faith, integrity and humanity of their leaders, and, to the mass of the people, the erection and maintenance of the community's welfare provisions have come to be regarded as the outward symbol of the state's sincerity. Their continued defense, their manning—yea, their strengthening and extension for their day of greatest pressure in the rebuilding—are then part of this whole fight for freedom, and a part that will not be glamorous nor understood as we fight to hold it through grim days ahead. There will be criticism, doubt, and discouragement, the way will be long and the going heavy, but we, the citizens who are aware of these far-range values, and the workers who man operations, all we who have knowledge, and, in that knowledge, responsibility, must neither falter nor fail in this salient wherein so much of the morale of the mass of the population is entrenched."

In dealing with the causes and preventive aspects of wartime juvenile delinquency, a memorandum of the British Government presents the following statement: "One of the best means of checking juvenile delinquency in wartime, as in peace, is to provide more, and more varied, social and recreative facilities to meet the needs and tastes of all sections of the youthful community—indeed, this has been proved in places where such provision has been made and a decrease in delinquency has resulted—and to challenge youthful exuberance to interest itself in useful service."

Improvised Equipment for the Army



Courtesy Long Beach, Calif., Recreation Commission

By **HARRY D. EDGREN**

Special Consultant in Physical Training
and Recreation
School for Special Service
Washington and Lee University

ONE OF THE ASSIGNMENTS given the officers in the recreation course at the Army's School for Special Service is the task of making a piece of recreation equipment from materials found in and around camp. The result was a very interesting compilation. In a class of four hundred men recently graduated at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, over one hundred different pieces of equipment were made.

This equipment can be divided into three categories: musical, indoor, and outdoor equipment. It is interesting to note the materials used in the making of this equipment.

"By the simple process of improvising," is the answer of the alert recreation director when asked how he is meeting the difficulties caused by lack of standard equipment and by wartime demands.

I. Musical

Wires
Wood
Cans
Nails
Marbles
Sand
Stoves
Gourds
Bottles

II. Indoor

Cans
Wood
Needles
Thread
String
Matches
Tin
Paper boxes
Bottle tops
Nails
Cardboard
Rings

III. Outdoor

Branches
Wood
Socks
Sand
String
Rubber bands
Nails
Rags

An Improvised Xylophone

The student officers made shakers, drums, a ukulele, tom-toms, horns, a xylophone, musical bottles and buzukas. Here are instructions for making an improvised xylophone.

To construct a homemade xylophone only a few materials are needed. Select a

(Continued on page 104)

RECREATION

A Problem of the Country

America's famed sports writer makes a plea for more and better physical training to meet the needs of the nation's youth—now and after the war

By GRANTLAND RICE

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North American Newspaper Alliance

THERE ARE ENOUGH problems confronting the country today without trying to dig up any new ones. But there is one we should meet now, and take care of in future years. This is the matter of far better physical training and development on the part of millions of America's younger generation.

We have been rated a great athletic nation. But apparently this has concerned only a small percentage of picked people—of stars good enough to make big-time teams and so draw big crowds at the gate.

When you find, for example, that out of some 3,000 young recruits over 2,500 have taken practically no part in sport—that most of these barely can chin themselves; that they can't box, wrestle, swim, play baseball or football with any skill; that they are quickly exhausted; that they are clumsy—you begin to get a part of the answer.

I know of one district where, out of eighty-one draftees, sixty-six were turned down on the physical side earlier in the war. There is something entirely out of focus with our form of athletic life.

What this country must have is enforced athletic training, nation-wide from the ages of twelve to sixteen or eighteen. Above all, it should include hiking, running, jumping, and swimming. Before the war we were facing a legless country, in which youngsters lived on wheels.

The program also should include such competitions as boxing and wrestling, basketball and baseball. A rough, body-contact game, such as football, should not be compulsory before fifteen or sixteen. Kicking, passing and touch football fit in nicely—not hard tackling or blocking.



Courtesy New York City Park Department

I got an eyeful of this poor condition while walking around with Lieutenant Jack Dempsey of the Coast Guard. The coastguardmen were volunteers. There were several thousand from all over the country. They were keen, dead game, willing. But most of them had known little physical training before they came to camp. I'd say about four out of five.

As Jack pointed out, "They'll tackle a bulldog. But many of them don't know their left hand from their right when they first come here, and they have a hard time chinning themselves just once.

"I never saw a more willing bunch, though. They just never had a chance to learn. It's a shame we've had an athletic system that developed a comparatively few stars, instead of giving every kid a chance. It means a lot in more ways than one, and I don't mean on the physical side alone, which, of course, is important. There is likewise the mental side, which signifies self-confidence."

Except in a few scattered places this country has overlooked the training of its youth, and this is where we should have made the start. Just what sort of sport we shall have next year no one knows. But there should be a full program for members of the younger generation, for you can safely wager that this country will need them badly—either before this war is over or after it is won.

In the Bird World

By MARGARET L. HAMMOND

HAVE YOU EVER experienced the thrill of identifying a bird you have seen or heard? There is no greater pleasure in the realm of nature or one more inexpensively pursued. After a winter, which in many parts of the country has been unusually prolonged and severe, and in a time when so many problems arising from world conditions weigh upon one, why not tune your ears and eyes to the world of birds which is all about us?

It will require alertness on your part. I have often been with someone who neither saw nor heard a bird that was near by, simply because his eyes and ears were unopened to the world about him. He would be surprised at my recognition of the bird—not due to any special ability on my part, but simply to being on the alert, listening and seeing. I have often taken high school students on bird study trips and they are literally amazed and

"No bird student is ever bored, for the study of birds is a never-failing source of interest. . . . Fortunate is the child who has been from early days conscious of this busy world, so unceasingly astir about us. He has a wealth of memories to carry with him through life."—*Margaret McKenny in Birds in the Garden.*

delighted when they see the birds and learn to recognize them.

The only equipment needed for bird study is a pair of glasses, though if you are observant you can have many interesting experiences without them. The spring season, and especially the month of May, is the best time for

initiating your study, though this is a hobby to be pursued the year round with pleasure.

Some trips may be uneventful, producing nothing more than the everyday bird inhabitants of your vicinity. Others will be highly exciting. One early Sunday morning walk in May promised to be very uninteresting until I chanced on a flowering locust tree literally swarming with humming birds. A summer climb to the top of a bluff beside a lake in northern Minnesota rewarded me with the sight of a little male purple finch—really not purple at

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Courtesy Park Service Bulletin, Washington, D. C.



Courtesy Omaha World-Herald

Let's All Sing Together!

Two sailor lads and their friends tune up with "Anchors Aweigh" at one of Omaha's mammoth community sings. More than 15,000 people turned out the night this picture was taken.

By **WILLIAM J. MEYERS**
Director of Recreation
Omaha, Nebraska

MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE raise their voices every summer Sunday at Omaha's mammoth community sing. Each week the crowds gather early to find the choicest seats on the hillside turf at Elmwood Park, and promptly at 8:15 the words of "The Slopes of Elmwood" sound the opening note for another evening of fun and hilarity. Words and music of this song were written especially for and about Omaha's famous songfests.

Five years ago, through the sponsorship of the *World-Herald News*, these "sings" were inaugurated, and they have since become so much a part of the summer activity that arrangements must be made this year to accommodate more "sing loving" people. What began as an experiment has developed into an event of such unexpected proportions that last year 145,000 persons attended the ten sings.

In a letter to an Omaha newspaper, a visitor to the city eloquently described his impressions of one of the weekly get-togethers: "I haven't recovered from my astonishment at a view of the huge crowd working its way as one mass to the vast tree-framed, downhill slope. The crowd chatted peacefully on the large stately grass plot far down

under the starlit sky. One could hear near-by the dialects of many European languages.

"All of a sudden the magnificent tones of a full band, and then, during flag raising, at least 15,000 persons singing together, 'God Bless America.' . . . The words of the songs shone from a large screen. A short introduction by the orchestra and the crowd sang, following the electrically lighted baton of the recreation director, they swelled together in entire chorus; or men, women or children sang alone in wonderful harmony."

To conduct and promote a successful sing, it is necessary to have the active support of a daily newspaper and radio station, if these are available in your locality. Advance promotional work and proper publicity will help to make the sing a city-wide event.

The type and amount of promotion carried on by the *Omaha World-Herald* were outstanding. Weeks prior to the first sing, columns of publicity and pictures were printed in the paper. Prominent business and professional men were interviewed for statements about this new venture. Some of them appeared on radio programs where informal previews of the sing were broadcast, thus giving the public an idea of the fun awaiting them at the songfests.

Such catch lines as, "Tune up your tonsils," "Reaching the high ones real fun," or "Try a song workout in your tub today" appeared throughout the paper, arousing the curiosity of the public and getting them in the mood for the real thing. The



smallest details were publicized. Pictures showed the director with his special electric baton, beating out the simpler tempos of popular songs. These pictures were so made that anyone could follow the beat by watching the electric ball of the song leader's baton.

A map of the park was printed with descriptions of the roads leading to the grassy slopes where the

THE SLOWMO

"Come to the slopes of Elmwood
Where a tenor or bass is king!
Where sopranos and contraltos
Tilt up their chins and sing!
Where butchers, bakers and common folk
Sing to the star studded skies.

RECREATION

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Courtesy Omaha World-Herald

ELMWOOD

"Where banker, merchant, and landlord
Are no better than us other 'guys.'
So, come to the slopes of Elmwood
Each Sunday night and sing.
Sweethearts, mothers, sisters, brothers,
Long may your voices ring."

MAY 1943

sings were to be held. Parking space was made available to accommodate 5,000 automobiles and the Police Commissioner assigned thirty-five men to handle the anticipated crowd. The public was advised to wear their working clothes or their Sunday suits—bring the family pillows or blankets for seats—but come out and sing!

(Continued on page 108)

Sundays-in-the-Parks

By JACK MARTIN

Chairman, Citizens' Sunday Recreation Committee
Providence, Rhode Island

THIS is the story of an unanticipated probable saving of 7,500,000 motor miles.

It is the story of the entertainment, diversions and amusement of a quarter million war-weary workers on the home front. It is the story of a community project devised as a contribution to the nation's war effort which already has exceeded by far the hopeful expectations of those who organized it. It is the story of Providence, Rhode Island and its Sundays-in-the-Parks.

The story is being retold here in detail, and at just this time, in the belief that other American communities may profit during the coming summer from the experience of Providence. And there is no denying that this spring the need for thousands of similar projects is more evident than it was in the spring of 1942 when Providence's venture was conceived.

Providence is an average American city. Let's look at it, say, on a normal, sunshiny summer Sunday back in 1938 or 1939. That was a day when World War II was as entirely remote in one direction as the day in 1636, when the eminent gentleman of that name landed locally on Roger Williams Rock, seemed in the other direction.

From early forenoon until activities soon after dusk reached the day's crescendo, all two-, four-, and six-lane highways leading from the city were jammed with pleasure seeking families of a highly individualized center, all in their own automobiles.

As approaching events cast their shadow over the summers of 1940 and '41, this form of weekend diversion stepped upward, along with the rise in production which gave these families more money with which to buy better cars and gasoline and more tires.

Then came Pearl Harbor and the subsequent happenings which made it a fair guess, a year ago, that the summer of 1942 was going to be a vastly different experience for the quarter of a million people of Providence, just as it was going to be for most of the rest of America. There were new and different industries, some of them bringing workers

from the four corners of the nation, all to be added to the home folks who were having less

and less week-day time for relaxing, with only a few hours on an occasional Sunday to get the diversion which seems so necessary to send them back refreshed to their new round of duty on Monday morning.

The Providence *Journal* and *Evening Bulletin*, Rhode Island's most widely-read newspapers, have always been mindful of the problems of the people they have served for more than a century, and this new situation was of concern to the publishers. So it was referred to the news promotion department and thus to the writer of this article.

Back in the horse-and-buggy days, as a third or fourth grader in a little New England country town, I had an experience which has stayed with me all these years — and they are many. In our town there was a beautiful little riverside park, and three times each summer everyone in and around town stopped all other activity to gather there for a day's outing. We youngsters used to spend two or three days cleaning up the place and directing a stage in preparation for the event. We were glad to do it, for the shows that were put on made more impression on most of us than anything we have seen since!

Most of the entertainment was by local talent — vocalists, musicians, magicians, orators, and the like. Probably it was on the "corny" side, but the folks all went for it. And there were always numbers presented by real talent — a dozen or more stars of the Broadway entertainment world who spent their summers boarding in the country. Some of the biggest names of the early 1900's appeared on our programs. It was all in fun, and I presume these stars never gave better performances at the current \$2.50 tops.

Off to a Good Start!

I told Providence's young Mayor Dennis J. Roberts about these old shows, and he agreed with me that folks of the 1940's were not so different basically from those of the 1900's. We also agreed that it would be a lift to civilian morale in our city

In telling its story, Mr. Martin states, the Providence Citizens' Sunday Recreation Committee has no other objective than to make the suggestion that similar committees should find its example easy to follow, provided the plan is tailored to each community's local conditions.

if we could give the bound-in-town war workers and their families some Sunday afternoon diversion during the approaching summer.

With Mayor Robert's blessing we hand-picked a committee of prominent men, each of whom we knew would work and each of whom had something to contribute to the enterprise. They included city officials, executives of radio stations and local theaters, and representatives of civic and social organizations of all kinds. School and park officials and judges were also on the list.

Providence has a number of parks well suited to what we considered our needs for open-air entertainment, and equipped with well-appointed baseball and football fields. Among them was beautiful Roger Williams Park with its impressive lake-side Benedict Monument to Music. Inasmuch as Mayor Roberts had given us his hearty approval and we had Park Superintendent Noonan with us, selection of our sites was easy. We picked nine of the parks, including Roger Williams which is residentially surrounded and not too far away from other residential sections.

We adopted a policy of no politics, a minimum of war, and nothing to sell, and we decided to stage three entertainments on each of thirteen summer Sunday afternoons. Furthermore, we would coordinate into our

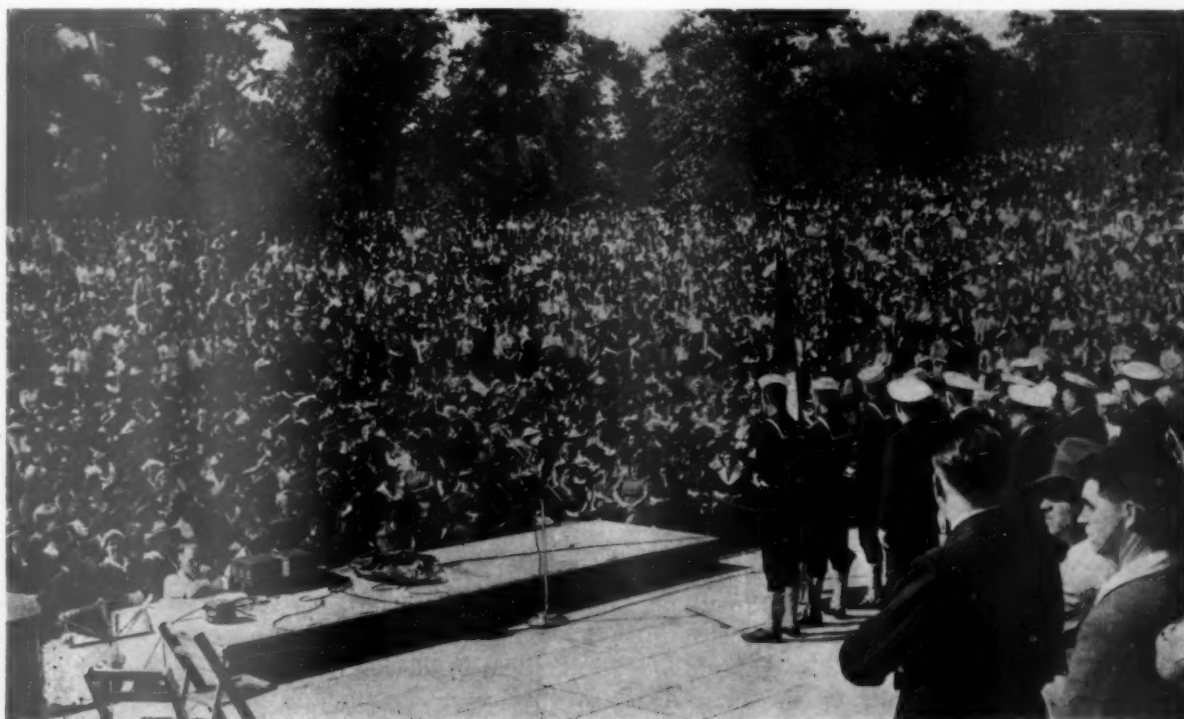
over-all programs baseball and football games at the other parks. Our big shows we would put on every Sunday in the Monument of Music, a massive white marble structure at the edge of a natural amphitheater. Two lesser productions would be alternated in opposite corners of the city, and baseball would be distributed at other parks as far as the growing manpower demands would permit.

Thirteen committee members were assigned chairmanships of each of the Sundays. All of the rest had other assignments, such as financing, first aid, policing, professional guests stars, and so on. As chairman, I coordinated the programs and directed publicity.

We decided not to make a concerted drive for funds. Money was needed, but we felt that we could get along if a few — two or three — friends would finance our opening shows. After that, we hoped we would have been convincing enough so that volunteer contributions would carry through. After we had talked to a number of public-spirited citizens, two of them contributed about a thousand dollars. Later, and entirely voluntarily, local Italo-Americans and various others added \$800 more in amounts varying from \$5 to \$100.

It was with some doubt that the committee approached the opening productions. We picked our two other parks, framed

An overflow crowd of bound-in-town citizens turn out for the Sunday afternoon program at the natural amphitheater in Roger Williams Park



lesser programs for them, arranged rather an elaborate one for Roger Williams Park, and prayed individually and collectively for a pleasant July 5th!

Local radio station band leaders placed their swing bands in the three parks—sixteen pieces at Roger Williams, and eight pieces each at the others. We engaged "Happy" Stanley, widely-known in southern New England as a master of ceremonies, and gave him the job of handling the big show. In the other parks, we depended on the band leaders.

For the main production we had a voluntary contribution of the show from the Beachcomber, a Providence night club. For the others we booked a few available vaudeville acts. An official party headed by Mayor Roberts was to tour the three parks. In the party besides the Mayor, the chairman of the committee and another member, were three stage and screen notables, the manager of the local theater where they were appearing, and Don Mario, singing band leader.

A sort of back-handed stroke of good fortune came our way during the days preceding our opening. Mario and his band were playing at the Beachcomber and had volunteered with the floor show. Being a "traveling" band, permission for its appearance on our program was denied by the local musicians' union. The controversy which followed served to keep our forthcoming production front paged for several days. Everyone knew there would be a show that first Sunday!

The weather was with us, too. A grand holiday Sunday afternoon found an estimated twenty thousand at our main show, and another eight thousand distributed among the other two performances and the baseball games.

Our Luck Held!

The weather stayed with us right through the summer. We had only two cancellations, and we were able to make up for one of these when we brought our final show downtown to the spacious State House esplanade at the invitation of Governor J. Howard McGrath, resident of Providence, and one of our most enthusiastic followers through the summer. That was on an early October Sunday, and we moved to the Governor's doorstep because there was a mammoth civilian defense parade downtown that day, and we didn't want to ask our folks either to miss the parade or to come out to the park after it was over.

We were helped materially by the First Aid

Unit of the American Red Cross, which was constantly in attendance with a dozen volunteer workers, a tent, and an ambulance throughout the summer. They had only minor cases to care for despite the vast crowds and summer heat, but they were as steadily on the job as the sun, another of our highly regarded allies. Jess Cole's public address system was another voluntary contribution.

After four weeks we abandoned the neighborhood park programs. We found that everyone in the city, knowing that the bigger attractions would be at Roger Williams Park, usually found some way to get there with their families. The baseball games and, after Labor Day, the football games, had their own followers.

We soon found, too, that there were any number of capable local entertainers, some retired professionals, some semi-professionals, and some just good amateurs who would fill our programs. Their work, inspired by the size of the audience, more than satisfied our followers. In fact, the only complaints the chairman ever heard voiced about the project came from well-meaning folks who for one reason or another—mostly lack of time—failed to get booking with us!

Because of dwindling funds, we cut down the size of our basic bands toward the end of the season, but that wasn't a severe handicap. The crowds stayed with us. In August and early September it was a thrill to pass through the park to the Temple and see countless numbers of family groups picnicking among the trees, later coming early for good seats at the show.

We depended upon Superintendent Noonan's checkers for our approximate attendance figures, which ran from slightly more than 7,000 on a day when a test air raid and mobilization had been publicized widely in advance to 37,000 on the day we called "Navy Day," when the Navy took over a large part of the program and Navy mothers were special guests. Mr. Noonan also worked out the theoretical figures on the saving of gas and rubber, basing his deductions upon the number present, the number of pleasure cars per person in the state, and on the fact that all who attended were stationary for about four hours and that normal Sunday driving thereabouts is at the average of thirty miles per person.

Many stars of stage, screen, and radio made voluntary appearances while playing at local theaters and vaudeville houses. Some of them made

(Continued on page 106)



Neighborhood Music Nights

"NEIGHBORHOOD Music Nights," a happy idea for the community music program, is the latest recreational and morale-building activity to be initiated in Wilmette, Illinois, as a part of the Civilian Defense project.

Daniel M. Davis, director of the Wilmette Playground and Recreation Board, and commander of civilian programs under the Wilmette Council of Civilian Defense, is promoting this idea, together with Miss Mary McKay, Supervisor of Music in the Wilmette Public Schools. With an excellent committee composed of professional and amateur musicians, they have launched a program which bids fair to become a vital part of Wilmette's community life.

"Serve through song" is their slogan. "Music," they insist, "is becoming more and more a living part of our national existence and well-being. Music gives us enthusiasm for a cause; binds us together with understanding, and takes us a step forward in promoting the democracy of tomorrow. Actively sharing with others in the joys of music gives us a real lift out of the routine of daily living. Participation offers friendship as well as inspiration."

"Neighborhood Music Nights," was the name chosen for this new program. The local weekly paper, *Wilmette Life*, gave generous space and helpful suggestions to interest and inform the citizens about this project. Committee members announced the plans and objectives at church, club and parent-teacher meetings. Interested persons were asked to open their homes and act as hosts and hostesses for a "sing."

The responsibility of a hostess, who usually had an assistant, was to invite persons in her neighborhood to join in an evening of music participation. Loyalty songs, friendship and home songs, songs of religious faith and devotion, songs of other lands, popular songs since the 90's, and fun songs were all in-

**"Set your hearts singing,
Your home ringing
And Victory winging —
With your Music Committee
of the O.C.D.!"**

cluded in the music menu for these meetings.

In preparation for this, the committee mimeographed a list of songs, their sources, the preferred keys and arrangements, and other details. These were given to directors and accompan-

ists at a special meeting where the material was studied to guarantee uniformity of performance in case the neighborhood groups might ever sing together at some school auditorium, or at the Wilmette Bowl on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Some of the rules governing the meetings follow:

1. Each person must *walk* to the home where the Music Night is being held.
2. A good time is to be had by all, with *no* refreshments.
3. Meetings are to start at 8:00 P. M. and close at 10:00 P. M.

The opening meeting was held on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1943, when over three hundred music lovers met at eighteen different homes in Wilmette. The enthusiastic response has been so general that more music nights have been added to accommodate different groups who were unable to meet on the specially designated night. Some groups meet weekly, others semi-monthly, others every third week and others monthly. Participants in this program are adults from 20 to 70. Some are church choir singers, and others have some knowledge of singing. This helps to hold up the harmony for the many others who just "like music" and are anxious to participate.

These "Neighborhood Music Nights" bring out the real functions of music: fun, neighborliness,

and morale building. Such a program can be duplicated in any community where the school supervisor or other music leader will take the responsibility of organizing the committees and getting the project under way. There is no limit to its possibilities, for with all groups singing songs chosen from a large selection,

(Continued on page 110)

"Man is a social animal. He is dependent upon a social environment. He must learn to live harmoniously with others. He is unhappy unless he has a feeling of belonging to a group. It is very significant that informal group singing is usually called community singing. . . . As we express our common state of feeling together—all of us expressing the same emotion through the music—a feeling of social solidarity is established."—Harry Robert Wilson in *Lead a Song*.

"Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggar Man, Thief..."

"Make and Mend" Column

BUTTONS HAVE ALWAYS held a strange fascination for grownups and children, but now they are coming into their own for a very practical reason. With dresses becoming plainer and materials less interesting in wartime, trimmings are taking a new turn and we are discovering that buttons can do more to brighten up an old dress than almost any other ornament.

Of course many kinds of buttons have disappeared from the store counters because of war shortages, but with a little paint you can dress up old buttons to look like new. Go through your button box and see what you have on hand. Then get out your paints and go to work.

Cover the button first with a coat of white shellac and allow to dry. Mix a small quantity of oil paint to the right shade and thin somewhat with turpentine. Apply this to the top of the button and allow it to dry thoroughly. You may then add any design you wish in a contrasting color. If the button is to be washed, protect it with one or two layers of white shellac.

Carved Buttons

Buttons carved from wood are beautiful. They can be made in any size or shape, and one also has a choice of lovely natural colors which can be found in almost any locality. Here is a list of possible woods with their colors: holly, white; maple or pine, natural; ebony, black; walnut, brown; mahogany or rosewood, red; cedar, natural marked with red; basswood, natural (soft for carving).

Nut and fruit pits have been popular as decorative buttons the past few years and are easily made. Whole nuts can also be used if they are sorted carefully as to size and shape. A small screw eye inserted through the shell will enable you to sew the buttons to a dress or packet. Be sure the nuts are perfectly dry and shellac them before using.

Attractive buttons can be made by cutting black walnuts crosswise into several layers. Smooth the surfaces with a file and shellac. A small drill will make the button eyes.

Chessmen are easily made into amusing buttons by adding screw eyes to the different pieces. The

pawns might be used as buttons and a single knight or rook added for a neck ornament. Checkers can be used in the same manner.

Try making earrings to match the trimming on your dress. Use old frames of discarded earrings, prying off the ornamental part and attaching buttons to match those on your dress. This is done by sealing the back of the button to the earring with household glue or cement. If you wear a comb in your hair, it can also be decorated with buttons by using strong thread or millinery wire.

A charming and colorful button boutonniere can be concocted from a variety of glass buttons with some raffia or scrap leather to complete the design.

Selecting Buttons

People are often apt to take buttons for granted without realizing what care is necessary in selecting buttons. For a print dress, use plain buttons that match the background color. If you have a dress with a tiny bit of color that you would like to emphasize, you can do it by adding buttons in that color. A plain fabric may be trimmed with buttons of any contrasting color. Wooden buttons are good with knobby fabrics and plaid materials.

Buttons can be changed for different occasions. One of the large New York department stores is featuring a silk dress this spring for business women who want something that can be worn both for the office and on social occasions. The distinguishing feature is two sets of buttons that can be changed by snapping the tops on and off. There are plastic buttons for the office and floral decorations for dinner wear. With such a scheme you may be able to make some of your own dresses do double duty.

And now a word about sewing buttons—there is a trick to that, too. If buttons will have much use there should be a "stem" of thread to hold them away from the cloth. Make the stem by sewing button loosely and wrapping thread tightly around the base. Another way is to take the first stitch or two and then insert a pin between button and cloth. Sew around the pin, then remove it and wrap the remaining thread around several times to make the stem firm.

Natural History in the Making

By

ARTHUR B. WILLIAMS
Curator of Education
Cleveland Museum of
Natural History

TO THE uninitiated mycology is a frightening word, but to members of the Kirtland Society of Cleveland, Ohio, it is the all-absorbing study of fungi, and only one of the many aspects of nature recreation that challenge Cleveland's amateur naturalists.

The Kirtland Society is a by-product of the outdoor program of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Cleveland Metropolitan Park Board. For twelve years these two organizations have maintained nature trails and trailside museums in the parks; they have conducted public bird walks, geology walks, tree walks, and "mushroom" walks; their leaders have guided groups on natural history trips and organized children's natural history clubs. Highlight of the year's program has been the Museum's extensive donkey pack outfit which explores the Sierra country of southern California in the summer seasons.

Out of these varied activity groups has emerged the Kirtland Society—some members are young, some older, but all are interested beyond the average in the many fields of natural history. They have been gathered together under the wing of the Museum of Natural History, given a headquarters, and provided with trained specialists from the Museum staff to direct their research.

The society is fortunate in the possession of a name which links it with the best traditions of the past in its community and sets before it an ideal of attainment. A century ago Dr. Jared P. Kirtland, Western Reserve's great pioneer physician, teacher,



Courtesy Dept. of Public Recreation, Reading, Pa.

The Kirtland Society is a living tribute to Cleveland's famed naturalist, Dr. Jared Kirtland. The purpose of this group is to foster the spirit of amateur scientific research in natural history, and to give the Cleveland community a better understanding of the out of doors.

writer, scientist, naturalist and horticulturalist, was a resident of Cleveland. His home was a mecca for visiting naturalists and scientists from all over the world.

Throughout his lifetime Dr. Kirtland was an ardent student of birds, and when the first Kirtland Warbler known to science was found on the grounds of his home, it was named *Dendroica kirtlandi* by Professor Baird

of the Smithsonian Institute in honor of "a gentleman to whom, more than anyone living, we are indebted for a knowledge of the natural history of the Mississippi Valley."

Dr. Kirtland organized the Cleveland Academy of Natural Sciences which later became the Kirtland Society of Natural Science (1869), and was merged with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in 1927. Now the Museum sponsors a new Kirtland Society to rekindle the flame of amateur research in natural history in the Cleveland region.

The present Kirtland Society was organized in the fall of 1940 by a small group of people who became its Division of Ornithology. They called themselves the Kirtland Bird Club, thus setting the pattern for future clubs. Next came the Kirtland Mycology Club, who are known as the "Fun Guys." Then came the Kirtland Geology Club, the Tree Club, the Mammal Club, the Reptile Club, and the Photographic Club. At the second

annual meeting of the society all the clubs presented an account of their projects, illustrated by exhibits.

Each club operates under its own by-laws, with its own officers, but all are members of the main society. The Council of the society, which is its general administrative body, grants emblems to members who distinguish themselves in their research.

All of the clubs choose only those new members who show promise of becoming active workers in the club's projects. Usually the club program consists of regular monthly meetings, frequent field trips, and a special club project in research. At the present time the total membership is about 150.

As yet it is too early to speak of much definite achievement, and the war has greatly modified the activities of the society. Limitations on automobile use have cut deeply into the extended field trips. Some of the most active members are in the armed forces. Others are absorbed in war services of one sort or another in greater Cleveland. To date one club has practically had to suspend operations for a time. But there is a promise of things to come in their accomplishments.

The Kirtland Bird Club has organized and conducted the Christmas Bird Counts for the Cleveland region for three years. Its members lead the popular spring "Bird Walks" conducted by the Museum. All of its members are regular contributors to the quarterly "Bird Calendar" of the Cleveland Bird Club, currently edited by a member of the Society's Council. During the winter of 1940-41 complete studies of local wintering bird populations were made on two areas near Cleveland. During the summer of 1941 club members studied eleven different breeding bird populations, and under the direction of the chairman of the committee, five non-members completed seven similar studies of other areas. During the summer of 1942 eight similar studies were made. Most of these population studies and the Christmas Bird Counts were published in the Audubon Magazine.

During the winter of 1941-42 a study of the wintering duck population along the Lake Erie

waterfront at Cleveland was made by fourteen members of the club. Over 65,000 ducks of seven species and more than 12,000 other birds were thus recorded. The club looks forward to the production eventually of an annotated check-list of the birds of the Cleveland region.

The Mycology Club has sought to increase the knowledge of the fungi of the Cleveland region. It furnishes leadership for the Museum's "Autumn Mushroom Walks." One of its members has written a "Pocket Natural History" describing over one hundred of the common fungi of the region, illustrated by original photographs of each species. Club plans call for the building up of a Museum herbarium.

Members of the Geology Club lead "Geology Walks" and "Fossil Hunts." They are now collecting invertebrate fossils, with the double purpose of building up the Museum's collection and assembling material for a scientific report. This in turn can be used later in a Museum "Pocket Natural History."

One member of the Tree Club is studying pollen distribution of trees with special interest to hay fever sufferers. The club as a whole is making a survey and report on the trees of a newly opened municipal park in two neighboring suburban cities. An-

other club project is the gathering and tabulation of information on seasonal changes in trees.

The Kirtland Mammal Club has been collecting small mammals and making them into skins for the Museum's collection. No less than nine type specimens for newly described sub-species have been collected by members of this club.

The newly organized Reptile Club will meet more or less regularly at the Cleveland Zoo where a good collection of live reptiles is available for their study. They hope to aid in securing an adequate reptile house for the Zoo.

The art of nature photography holds the interest of Photography Club members who are looking forward to the time when they may invite the rest of the society to a formal showing of their work. Meanwhile they are engaged in building up a file of natural history pictures in the Museum library.

(Continued on page 102)

"In spring life stirs again in the ponds and swamps. . . . It is the season when the flower parade begins to dot the brown earth with its colorful members, when mosses and ferns carpet the floor with fresh greenness, when butterflies emerge from their chrysalid armor and crawling caterpillars become graceful fliers. Most exciting of all, it is the season when most of our songbirds return to us from their southern haunts, bringing back with them the cheery notes which echo over fields and through woods. . . ." C. J. Hylander in *Out of Doors in Spring*.

Firestone Victory Gardens

THE 2,000 VICTORY Gardens worked by employees of

the Firestone Tire and

Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio, will produce more than 7,000,000 pounds of vegetables this year, with a value of more than \$150,000 and 70,000,000 ration points. It is estimated that each garden will yield twice the vegetables that are now allowed a family of ten under the canned goods ration plan.

This Firestone employee project had its beginning more than twenty-seven years ago in vacant lots which are now part of the Firestone Park residential section. With civilians feeling the pinch of food shortages in 1916 much as they are today, Harvey S. Firestone, then head of the Firestone Company, made company-owned land available to employees for vegetable gardens. They plowed the land, paid for their seeds, and were entirely responsible for the success of their crops.

From this beginning the Firestone gardens have steadily grown to

Employees of the Firestone Company are gardening for victory on a large scale

the largest company-sponsored employee gardens in this country. Last year, 1,500

plots grossed more than \$85,000 worth of fresh vegetables.

Program for 1943

Twenty-five additional acres of tillable soil have already been limed, drained and sown in rye and vetch this year. The new land will boost the yield of vegetables to the estimated \$150,000.

Employees who register for gardens are given garden passes, stickers for their cars, and a packet of selected seeds sufficient to plant approximately half of the 50 x 80 foot plot.

Careful scientific study and years of preparation by experts have made each plot a super garden capable of producing prize quality vegetables. All gardens are under the direct supervision of William E. Lyons, a specialist in soil conservation and soil improvement.

Last season fifty tons of fertilizer and one

Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., (left) president of the Firestone Company, looks on while an employee gardener receives an award for her Victory Garden



hundred tons of lime were used in the Firestone gardens. Previous to the planting season a series of soil tests revealed that two plots contained low spots or catch basins hazardous to successful gardening since there was no escape for heavy rainfall. With water covering the soil for more than twenty-four hours at a time the plant roots would die from lack of air.

Drain holes were bored through ten feet of top soil into the underlying strata of gravel, and drain tile was laid to speed the removal of surplus water. This improvement made available a large number of additional gardens that were among the most productive in the entire section.

Soil Conservation

Soil conservation on a year-round basis is a definite part of the gardening project. Erosion has been checked by constructing a series of stone dams, which slow up the speed of water as it drains off the land.

After the gardens were closed on October 15 last year, the entire garden growth was disced into the soil to fertilize the soil and destroy any winter cover for insects.

Records of soil management are kept from year to year to serve as a basis of long-range soil improvement. These records show drainage needed, time of plowing, seed-bed preparation, type and amount of fertilizer and lime used, type and condition of cover crops plowed under, and erosion progress. Records of man and machine hours are also kept to determine cost of operations.

Muck Gardens

Along Wilbeth Road, adjacent to the Firestone plant, is an area of muck land, sixty acres of which were cleared, drained, and tilled last year. Each muck garden yielded on an average of more than \$150 worth of vegetables the first year.

Each year Gardens Supervisor Lyons plants and cultivates an experimental garden plot on a difficult piece of ground to show beginners and seasoned gardeners alike what progress can be made with proper care and planting technique.

This experimental plot demonstrates the value of shallow cultivation, the proper application of insecticides, fertilizer placement, succession and companion planting, depth of planting, width of rows, winter care of gardens, and soil improvement.

Demonstrations are also carried on to show the advisability of staking or not staking tomatoes, the

advantages of bush as against pole beans, and the productivity of various types of seeds.

Garden Awards

Each year the Firestone Company has granted cash awards to the ten most successful gardeners of the year. The winning gardens are judged on the basis of layout, variety, insect control, tillage and garden practices.

Following the 1942 harvest, a huge Victory Garden Show was held on the grounds of the Firestone Country Club. Ribbons were awarded to first, second, and third places for each variety of vegetable. A Grand Champion was selected for the best over-all. Interest ran high, and in many cases first-year gardeners topped the experts.

Garden Booklet

Each year a garden booklet is issued to Firestone gardeners with helpful information on companion cropping and succession planting, planting dates and distances, preparation of the seed-bed, planting depth, disease-resistant varieties, transplanting, cultivating to control weeds, watering, disease and insect control, the correct garden tools, and the proper clothes to wear for gardening.*

Facilities for Recreation

With many mothers and older sisters going into war production last year, it became necessary for gardeners to take their children with them to the gardens. A large playground area was cleared for the children and sandboxes installed. This plan proved so successful that recreational facilities for the entire family are being added this year. Picnic tables, fireplaces and space for outdoor games will be provided.

"Once again, just as they were twenty-five years ago, gardeners are on the front page as an important part of the nation's war effort. Once again gardeners are responding to their country's call to enlist in a great army whose battle cry is 'Food for Freedom.' They are a fighting army but their weapons are those of peace—spades, rakes, and hoes. . . . Once more the supreme importance of food is being emphasized on every hand; food for those who are fighting, and food for those at home who are making the things to fight with."—*E. L. D. Seymour in Your Victory Garden.*

*This booklet is available on request from the National Recreation Association.

It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

Cap'n Bill's Column of Nature-Grams

BERKSHIRE MUSEUM, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in cooperation with the Pleasant Valley Bird and Wildflower Sanctuary and the Massachusetts Audubon Society has employed a trained nature instructor who will devote full time to teaching nature and conservation. The leader will be at the Museum in the winter and at the Sanctuary in summer and will work with schools, camps, parks and group work agencies. The co-operation of three institutions for a common cause is a worthy and progressive move. It is also an object lesson.

Farming. "Tom, Dick and Harry." Farm drama concerning profitable farming practices. A 16 mm. sound film free for transportation. Time 45 minutes. Write Keystone Steel and Wire Company, Peoria, Illinois.

Forest Fire Prevention. Massachusetts has a new forest fire patrol law. Lack of airpower, scarcity of gasoline and tires, and military regulations preventing use of radio to notify wardens of weather forecast were some of the difficulties. The total cost was \$8,632 or about \$66 per town patrolled. Forest fires in 1942 were 1,035 as against 3,624 in year before. Acres burned were 11,001 compared to 28,966 in 1941.

Herb Garden. Medicinal plants were formerly imported from Europe. For herb hobbyists there is opportunity to grow several drug crops. Among them are aconite, bella donna, digitalis, henbane, stramonium and the poppy. A bulletin called "Medicinal Plants" is available from the Division of Drug and Related Plants, U. S. Dept. Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Since we are the greatest spice using nation you might ask for the bulletin "Condiment Plants," at the same time.

Indians. "Sun Chief, The Autobiography of a Hopi Indian," Leo W. Simmons, editor. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut. 460 pp. \$4.25. An Indian who tried the white

man's way for ten years and returned to tribal life.

Insects. "Near Horizons. The Story of an Insect Garden," Edwin Way Teale. Dodd, Mead and Company, New York. 319 pp. illus. \$3.75.

"International Protection of Wild Life," Sherman Strong Hayden. Columbia University Press, New York. 246 pp. \$3.00.

Jackson Hole National Monument, Wyoming, an approach to Grand Teton National Park, was made a fact, March 16, 1943, when President Roosevelt signed a proclamation. Sculptured by the glacier, it has been the rendezvous of Indians, fur trappers and traders such as Jim Bridges and Kit Carson. Tomorrow it will again be the home of the moose, buffalo, beaver, trumpeter swans and campers. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., gave donations that made this gift to the people possible.

Mammals. "Horns and Antlers," Wilfred S. Bronson. Harcourt, Brace, New York. 143 pp., illustrated by author. \$2.00.

"Microscope, Fun with Your," Raymond F. Yates. Appleton-Century, New York. 150 pp. illus. \$2.00. For young scientists.

Mountaineering. "High Conquest, the Story of Mountaineering," James Ramsey Ullman. J. B. Lippincott, New York City. 350 pp. Popular and authoritative.

Museum taken to the community. The inclusion of the Children's Department as beneficiary of the Worcester Community Chest will enable six centers under volunteer guidance. Contribution to the enjoyment of future peace is an opening theme. Lithuanian culture with exhibits, native music, and Lithuanian refreshments will be followed by

exhibits of Palestine, France, and Russia. Branch Museums are following the example of Branch Libraries.

Museums. Dr. Charles C. Adams, Director of the New York State Museum at Albany, in the 104th Annual Report of the Museum, describes a plan for an automobile traveling museum

(Continued on page 110)

From the days of ancient Rome May Day has been celebrated in gala fashion. Named for the Roman Goddess Maia, the month of May on the Roman calendar fell within the period dedicated to Flora, the Goddess of Flowers. In Medieval England all classes of people were up at dawn on May Day to go "a-Maying." Branches of trees and of flowers were borne triumphantly back to the village where a birch Maypole adorned with ribbons and flowers was erected.

WORLD AT PLAY

New Course in Los Angeles

RECREATION directors of the Los Angeles municipal playgrounds are taking a training course in jujitsu, the purpose of which is to prepare them to serve as instructors in jujitsu classes for the general public to be offered at various Los Angeles municipal recreation centers.

These classes have two objectives: (1) to contribute to the general physical fitness program; and (2) to prepare men about to enter the armed forces or civilian defense personnel or other home guard personnel to cope with jujitsu methods on the part of the enemy should they be encountered.

Community House for Negroes

Here activities for people of all ages are being provided—handcrafts, art and music for young people, household science for women, and educational and recreational facilities for men.

Play Schools in Wartime

related to their environment. Though normal activities go on—as they should—the current war scene has naturally affected children, and hence the way in which they express themselves. Ample opportunity is therefore given to them to dramatize their feelings through war play, to discuss their fears, and to do something about it all. Older boys and girls, for instance, organize and work on different types of salvage clubs, and make garments for children in America and abroad. On the latter

CANADA'S first community house for Negroes has been opened in Toronto.

"THE BASIC concept of our work-play program is rooted in children's interests as related to their environment.



Courtesy Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department

project, mothers as well as teachers are helping. Foods are studied; dehydrated foods are investigated; substitute play materials are used and found satisfactory. Children tagged in event of air raids—weekly evacuation drills—means that they are living in an atmosphere which colors their doing as well as their feeling."—From Annual Report 1942, Play Schools Association, Inc., New York City.

Park Made Over by Lions Club

they have cut down six-foot weeds in the city park, obtained and set in order an old cook stove, put up lights, fixed a cement wading pool, and made and painted two tables and eight benches for the park.

A City Planning Public Opinion Survey

have been released by the Bureau of Urban Research of Princeton University.

In the opinion of their inhabitants the outstanding problem facing cities is the lack of good, reasonable-priced housing. Next in order are transportation difficulties and traffic congestion; local problems resulting from the war; the lack of employment opportunity; inadequacy or dishonesty of municipal governments. Among other needs cited in some of the cities were new or improved streets, street lighting, water supply, sewage dis-

THE LEEDY, Oklahoma, Lions Club has sponsored two clean-up days during which

RESULTS of the first nation-wide public opinion survey dealing with urban planning

posals, municipal cleanliness, the need for better police, fire and health services, less noise, and more parks and playgrounds.

Parks Still Accessible — "The Commission has selected areas of ground throughout the County so situated that every thickly populated community has a park or playground near by."

This statement first appeared in a report of the Union County, New Jersey, Park Commission, submitted to Justice James J. Bergen in September, 1921. Because more than twenty-one years ago the members of this preliminary Park Commission felt the need of selecting areas that would serve every thickly populated community, 93 per cent of all the people in Union County find themselves living in communities containing at least one county park area. In the three cities of the county whose combined population exceeds 50 per cent of the county total, there are five well developed parks within easy access of the residents without using motor transportation. The Commission has issued a call for suggestions from county residents for facilities that would make the use of the park system more attractive to them without any excessive expenditure. It is thought that suggestions which will be received will help greatly in adding to the usefulness of the parks.

Facilities in Los Angeles — Los Angeles, California, has several multiple sports fields, including a huge archery commons at present providing for twenty-eight shooting lanes; a nineteen-mile bridle path used by some 5,000 riders on Sunday; the new Crystal Springs area, formerly the lower three holes of the golf course, now revamped to provide picnicking for 10,000 people; an enlarged and rehabilitated zoo; and a huge Park Department yard.

Wilmette's Community Center — About a year ago Wilmette, Illinois, completed a community center building which is used for such activities as classes for preschool children, dancing classes, sewing and first aid classes, civilian defense meetings, basket weaving, handwork, and ping-pong groups, and square dances. Since the building is located on a playground, the basement is used as a field house. No charge is made for any activity. The construction cost of \$7,637 was paid out of current funds, and the cost of maintaining and operating the center in 1942-1943, according to W. A. Wolff, Village Manager, will be \$1,550, including light, heat, and water.

TRAINING PLAYGROUND WORKERS . . .

THE WAR has created a shortage of experienced and trained playground workers. This summer playground authorities must use as leaders many persons whose preparation for such service has been very limited. The pre-summer institute will be more essential than ever before and training programs will need to be conducted throughout the season.

To help playground authorities plan and conduct their training institute and in-service training programs, the Association offers a new booklet, *Syllabus for a Playground Workers Institute*. It contains lists of topics for discussion and study with detailed outlines and reading references for each, a suggested institute schedule, and practical ideas for institute procedure.

Price \$.35

National Recreation Association

315 Fourth Avenue, New York City

Recommendations to School Systems — "The responsible authorities of school systems in a democracy at war should investigate the present and postwar educational needs of the youth of the community. Begin at once to make the curriculum changes that would provide for those needs and attempt to obtain or prepare teachers who can provide for such needs as work instruction, consumer education, leisure-time activities, civic responsibilities, health, and family relationships. . . . Utilize school plants and instructional equipment in all forms of community war work and in extensions of the educational program. Include all ages in instructional and recreational programs that make for better health, clearer understanding, and higher morale." — From *Teacher Education in a Democracy at War* by Edward S. Evenden.

Drama Activities in Long Beach — The month of June began for Long Beach, California, with the performance of "Elijah" for which the Recreation Division provided leadership for the dramatization. Summer plans provided for variations of the usual drama program at nineteen play centers, the plan being to have puppetry one month and dramatics another or story hours changing to puppetry. No district festivals were held and there was no travel by bus. In spite of the difficulties involved, there were many performances at the centers.



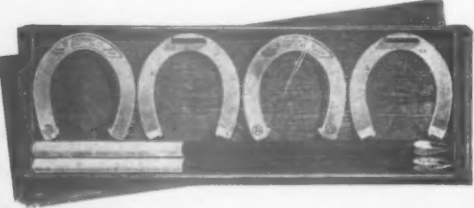
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Art and the War—With the approval of the War Department, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City has prepared an extensive program to utilize art and American artists for the benefit of the country's armed forces. The program consists of two parts: First, to provide facilities and material for soldier-artists in army camps throughout the country; and second, to utilize the talents of American artists for therapeutic work among disabled soldiers and sailors. The need for art materials in many camps is acute since most soldiers cannot afford to buy these materials.

In Haddon Township—In the township of Haddon, Camden County, New Jersey, is located Crystal Lake Park which provides recreation for people of all ages. In the park are a large swimming pool, a Nautical House where first aid treatment is given for minor injuries, a concession stand for the sale of refreshments for the bathers, and a playground and baby pool for younger children. Other facilities include night-lighted quoit courts, six tennis courts, an area on which Boy Scouts hold their Jamborees during the summer

season, and a baseball field. An artificial skating pond twelve inches deep is floodlighted and used during the winter for night skating. At two other locations in the township the Department of Public Safety, in charge of the recreation facilities, has erected additional quoit courts, tennis courts, and wading pools for children.

Storytelling as a Morale-BUILDER for Children

(Continued from page 75)

stories about snakes that awakened his interest in them. He began hunting them out, to study them. One day he brought home five water-moccasins in a bucket. He knew that his mother had a horror of snakes. Not to frighten her, he left the bucket containing his catch in a vacant lot across the street from the house. What he forgot, in his excitement, was that his father hated snakes as sincerely as did his mother. When his dad came home that evening, the boy proudly took him to see the pailful of *Agkistrodon piscivorus*. The result was disappointing. Instead of the praise he expected, his dad, to use my friend's own words, "threatened to lick the hide off him if he didn't get rid of the snakes immediately."

There was nothing to do but obey. The boy killed all of the reptiles except the prize of the collection, a six-footer, that evening. The big fellow he kept for a few days, then killed and skinned him, and made the skin into a belt. Incidentally, he was not permitted to keep the belt.

Admitting that, in this case, the boy was too well cured—that is, he became too fearless of snakes for his own safety and the peace of mind of his parents—the point remains. The incident furnishes a good illustration of the fact children are greatly influenced by the stories they hear. Which makes the responsibility of the storyteller a momentous one.

It is a responsibility likely to grow heavier, at least until the war is won. For the duration, more and more the talk children hear, the pictures they see, the headlines they read, will be such as keep thoughts of war in their minds. This puts it squarely up to the trained storyteller in the recreation field to do his best in the interest of juvenile morale. It is his vastly important task to serve his country by using his art as a morale-builder to children.

Walter A. May



FOR MORE THAN twenty-nine years Walter A. May gave generously of his business experience and his understanding of life to help the local and the national recreation movement as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association. His death on April 22, 1943, is a loss to the entire recreation movement.

He was ever keen and discriminating in his judgments, open-minded, ready to see the other side of every question. He had real courage. He never hesitated to stand alone if he thought he was right. Always he was warmly human.

He was interested in the personal welfare of each recreation worker he came to know and thought of each such individual in a very personal kind of way.

At the Recreation Congress gatherings he came early and stayed through. He presided at various meetings. He studied what was taking place and made valuable suggestions. No detail was too small to be considered by him.

Just a few days before his death he learned that a certain corporation he was identified with was asking for authority to increase the amount set aside for contributions. He immediately thought of possible financial support for the Association

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and sent word to the office. He helped in enlisting other workers and supporters. He cared for aiding the Association to make its largest contribution to the welfare of the world.

Walter A. May was one of the pioneers who helped to build up the national recreation movement and the National Recreation Association.

He was an active business executive who had the courage to retire while he could still enjoy life; who took time to play and live with his grandchildren; who traveled around the world twice to see what he might discover on this earth on which he lived; who made the most of fourteen years of leisure, counting service as good fun. His appreciation of the beautiful was a joy to his friends.

HOWARD BRAUCHER

Prize-Winning Photo

The picture, "Ball in the Air," reproduced on page 81 won first prize in the senior division of the annual photography contest sponsored by the Park Department of New York City. It was submitted by Mrs. E. J. O'Connell, 86 East End Avenue, New York City.

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THE WOMANS PRESS

600 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.

In a City of Homes

(Continued from page 64)

activities for children from the fourth grade through junior high school. During this play school season, which lasts from five to eight weeks, we increase our staff from two to five instructors.

Special classes are held in clay modeling. The children turn out excellent pieces of work, many of them models of animals which are sculptured from live models. Usually one of the projects of the class members is to select a character from a well known story and model it well enough for the rest of the group to guess the name of the character and the story.

Shop classes also prove popular in play school. The younger boys specialize in making pyramid puzzles, napkin holders, surf boards, Boy Scout pack racks, and pump handle lamps. The older boys have quite a bit of freedom in selection of projects and a cross section of their work would show a red wood garden table, garden tea cart, dog house, magazine racks and book cases.

The girls under the direction of two special women instructors completed many unique proj-

ects in woodcraft and crepe paper work last year. They made what-not shelves, garden decorations, clippings, jig-saw puzzles, wood and raffia belts, crepe paper coasters and glass holders, miniature hats, and bowls.

Tournaments for boys and girls in tennis, ping-pong, badminton, checkers, carroms, and volleyball continued through the special summer program. Skee-koe, shuffleboard, Sea War or "Sink the Battleship," tether ball, capture-the-flag, and hopscotch were minor playground games that proved extremely popular in our summer play school.

Special exercises are held on the last day of the play school. The first part of the program consists of novelty games and relay races. Then the children and their parents and friends adjourn to the auditorium where the dramatics group presents a one-act play. After the play, awards for the tournaments are made and refreshments served by the Parent-Teacher Association.

The biggest thrill of the year for many of our youngsters is the model airplane meet that is held once a year. The meet is sponsored by the San Marino Recreation Department with a perpetual trophy donated by the local Rotary Club. This is given to the winner of the meet for one year. Rules governing the entrants are:

1. All planes must be made by contestants.
2. All planes must be the fuselage type—rubber powered models.
3. Contestants may enter only one plane in each division.
4. Winners in each division will be awarded points toward the trophy.
5. All planes must be hand launched.
6. All planes must be entered in classification according to wing span—Class A, up to 24 inches; Class B, 24½ to 36 inches; Class C, 36 inches and over.

At Burlingame's Play Center

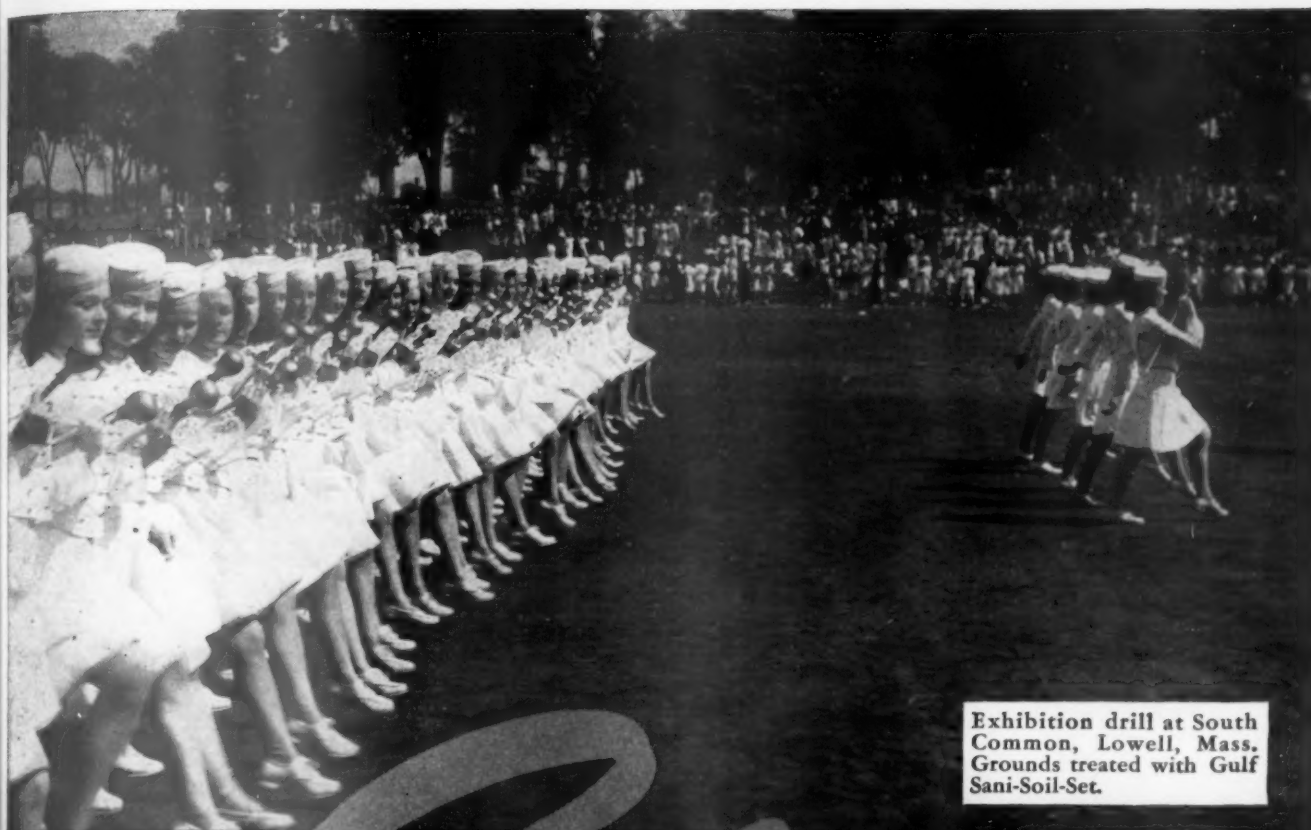
(Continued from page 70)

sends available leaders to all the different schools to help out on school parties, neighborhood gatherings, and class parties in which children of all ages are encouraged to participate with their parents.

Junior college age boys and girls participate in the adult evening activities — badminton, gymnasium work, and the adult folk dancing groups.

This year the budget for the Recreation Department has been increased to \$11,892, an increase of 33.8 per cent over last year.

RECREATION



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Consists of the following:

One High-Grade, Hardwood Alley with swinging ends. 23 feet overall.

Two sets of ten pins each (20) Highest Grade Hardwood, $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{3}{8}$ " belly thickness.

Two Hardwood Bowling Balls 3-9/16" in diameter.

Two Pit Floor Mats.

Two Pit Base Felts.

Two Heavy Swinging Cushions. 500 Score Sheets.

Portable: Packed in sections—"E Z Set Up" Construction.

DIMENSIONS

Length, 23 feet overall

Width, 32 inches overall

Height of alley above floor, 18 inches

Height of both ends from floor, 38 inches

Approximate shipping weight, 800 pounds



AMERICA'S MOST SENSATIONAL GAME...
BOWLING THE NEW 2-WAY

TWO-WAY BOWLING CORPORATION

Patent No. 2247769

114 East 32nd Street, New York

Telephone LExington 2-8828

Natural History in the Making

(Continued from page 92)

The Kirtland Society exemplifies outdoor recreation at its very best. It is not mass recreation in any sense, but recreation that enables the individual to develop his own particular interests as fully as possible. Coupled with this come the satisfactions that arise from personal progress and the achievement of results of real value from original investigation. There is a kind of satisfaction to the individual such as he might never get if he did not have the association which his club gives him with other like-minded people and the expert guidance that he needs.

The writer cannot help contrasting his experience as a boy many years ago, intent on developing a growing interest in birds, with the experience which a sixteen-year-old boy might now have as a member of the Kirtland Bird Club.

The writer had no adviser; no like-minded person with whom to talk; no library; and only one

book—Samuels' *Birds of New England*. He wanted to know more about birds and what he got, he got the hard way—without any help from trained ornithologists or the stimulus of directed original research.

Today a sixteen-year-old boy may sit in a meeting of the Kirtland Bird Club, his face alight with the same familiar craving for knowledge. Not only is he a part of a group as intent as he on extending their knowledge of birds, but at his elbow sits a man who has had years of experience in studying ornithology—a recognized leader in his profession. Near at hand is the Museum's special bird library, including the best books and magazines, and on display is the Museum's great collection of over 50,000 birds from all parts of the world.

One cannot help envying the boy of today, and feeling that nature recreation presented in such form is good—good for body, mind, and soul—perhaps the greatest contribution a museum of natural history may make to its community.

RECREATION

In the Bird World

(Continued from page 82)

all but a very rosy red—pirouetting about on the ground as he courted his lady love. The Norway pine woods at the same lake held the nest of a bald eagle, and we could watch the feeding of the young eagles by lying flat on the ground and gazing up at the nest. At night the lake echoed with the weird plaintive calls of the loons, whose daytime antics in ducking beneath the water are so amusing to watch.

Roaming the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi, we identified the towhee, a bird with coloring similar to the robin but very different in markings. There, too, we saw the fox sparrow, that rusty red and active member of a large family, busily scratching among the leaves like a mother hen. The little white-throated sparrow with his "piercing, tender cry" is a regular visitor for a week or so during the spring and fall.

Some birds are interesting because of their minute size, as the warblers and the kinglets. The warblers, of which there are about thirty varieties, travel through Minnesota in May on their way north to nesting grounds, after spending the winter in northern South America. One wonders how these tiny creatures can fly such distances. Their identification is a real challenge to the bird lover. And then there is the little Maryland yellow-throat with the black mask over his eyes like a bold bandit!

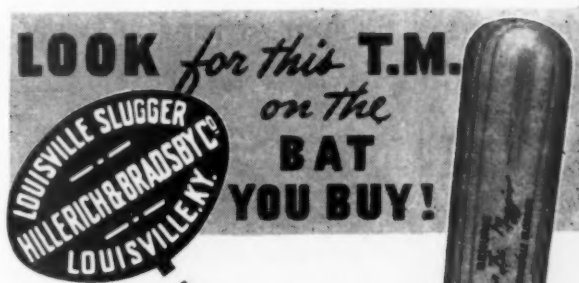
The winter study of birds is made easier by the attraction of food. A little board nailed to your window sill and covered with crumbs, sunflower seeds and suet will reward you with the presence of the most delightful of small winter birds, the chickadee. He will be joined by the downy and hairy woodpeckers, the bluejay, and the busy little nuthatch which stores bits of suet in the bark of near-by trees for future reference! Another winter visitor is that gay red cardinal whose call sounds like a cross between a whistle and a "cheep."

The next time you are out of doors take a good look at the bird world. It is a ready-made remedy for the wartime "blues."

Pardon Us!

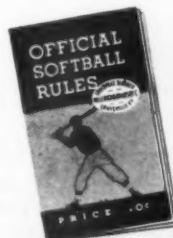
In the article "Two-Way Bowling Scores a Ten-Strike," published in the April issue of RECREATION, we stated that "two-way" bowling balls were 9 9/16 inches in diameter. This figure should have been 3 9/16 inches.

MAY 1943



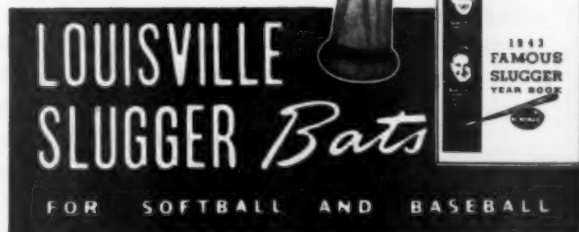
In addition to the regular line of Louisville Slugger bats, which is available in a wide variety of models, weights and lengths priced to meet your requirements, H & B have designed eight special models for college and prep school use.

A complete line of softball bats is also available. In Softball as well as in Baseball it pays to play with the best.



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& BRADSBY
Company, Inc.**
Louisville, Ky.

A free supply of Famous Slugger Year Books and Official Softball Rule Books will be sent you for use by your team members. Write us your requirements.



Improvised Equipment for the Army

(Continued from page 80)

few pieces of board, two or three inches wide, and one-half inch thick. Use one piece about sixteen inches long as the first tone. Its pitch need not correspond to any certain tone. With this piece as the first one, build a diatonic (do-re-mi-fa-sol-la-ti-do) scale by sawing each consecutive tone a bit shorter. By holding the board between thumb and forefinger along its edges, and striking it in the center of its flat surface with some hard object, its pitch can readily be determined. Care must be exercised in sawing off the boards; if too much is taken off the pitch will be too high and it cannot be lowered again. In that case it may be used for another higher tone.

Newspapers rolled and pasted together with flour-and-water paste are adequate for use under the nodal points of the board. These are necessary so that the boards or "keys" can rest, ends free, and sound clearly. Any piece of wood fashioned into a small mallet can be whittled with an ordinary jackknife.

Outdoor Equipment

In the area of outdoor equipment the student officers fashioned fish-poles, bats, balls, paddles, bow and arrows, spears, sling-shots, and lassos. Baseballs were made in a variety of ways, tape around an orange; string and rags around a rubber heel, and then taped; a man's sock sewed around a stone; and a larger ball (medicine ball) made from old rags wrapped around a large rock.

The largest amount and variety of equipment was made in the area of indoor games—puzzles, table games such as checkers and chess, tossing games, ring-toss, dice games, and dart games. A great amount of originality was shown in the making of dart games. Here the men used needles, nails, or pins for the dart points; toothpicks, matches, twigs or corn cobs for the body of the dart; and feathers, paper, or tin sheets for the feathers. For the targets they drew pictures of Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito, military maps, or maps of various theaters of operation.

These various pieces of improvised equipment can be used in day rooms, service clubs, and in isolated outposts where standard equipment is not available.

University of Wisconsin

Summer Session Prepares for Recreational Leadership

Philosophy—The place of recreation in American culture and social issues in education under the direction of Eduard Lindeman, New York School of Social Work.

Theatre—Courses include elements of dramatic production, stage direction, stage design. Seminar in dramatic production. Campus theatre provides opportunity for participation in summer productions.

Physical Fitness—A survey of the scientific foundations of fitness, conditioning exercises, and devices for measuring fitness.

A Military Recreation Program—which students may observe and in which they may participate as volunteer assistants is in operation on the campus in the Memorial Union Building, one of the larger community and military service centers of the country. Its program serves the student body, a campus military force of 3,500 and 20,000 men from a near-by Army post.

Observation of Municipal Recreation—is afforded in the city of Madison with its playgrounds, parks, and swimming beaches; its athletic leagues and its outdoor motion pictures. Milwaukee with its nationally recognized recreation organization can be reached in two hours.

15 Weeks Session June 7 to September 18.

6 and 8 Weeks Sessions begin June 21.

Complete information will be found in the Summer Session Bulletin which may be obtained from:
Director of Summer Session, Box 62, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Dance—Emphasis is given to American square and group dances with training in "calling"; to methods of teaching social dance patterns such as the foxtrot, waltz, rhumba and tango; to dance production with classes in beginning and advanced techniques and in dance composition.

Athletics and Games—The department of physical education offers a course in methods of conducting group dances, mixers, games. Specialized course in team games for men and for women are provided.

The House of Morgan



The Late J. P. Morgan

FOR TWENTY YEARS J. P. Morgan contributed to the National Recreation Association. In his death the Association has lost another loyal friend. His father before him was a contributor. The first contribution of \$1,000 came through a cable from J. P. Morgan, Sr., from England. Mr. Morgan's secretary, Mr. King, reported to me that Mr. Morgan had been deeply impressed by a leaflet "More Playgrounds or More Jails," and wanted to share in the national movement for more adequate playground and recreation centers for the children of America. It was characteristic of the senior Mr. Morgan that instead of waiting until he should return to the United States, he should have cabled asking that the contribution be made.

For a number of years, as First Vice-President of the Association, Henry P. Davison of J. P. Morgan and Company gave outstanding help not only in advising about current recreation problems but also in writing and telephoning to his friends and building up a very substantial financial support. After the death of Henry P. Davison, the



writing to the individuals whose support his father had enlisted was taken over by F. Trubee Davison and continued by him for the last twenty years. Harry P. Davison, son of Henry P. Davison, as well as F. Trubee Davison has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association. Harry P. Davison has been a member of J. P. Morgan and Company. Other partners in the House of Morgan have also been contributors to the Association through the years.

The national recreation movement owes much to the moral and financial support it has received from the House of Morgan.

HOWARD BRAUCHER

WAR AND EDUCATION

IN THE midst of war this is an attempt to appraise education as it has been, is, and might be—to explain how the abstractions "war" and "education," so much in people's minds, cover a multitude of sins.

Evidence is presented that our education leaves us without understanding and without emotional control. Without our present systems of education would it be possible to have our present systems of wars?

"Extremely interesting. I have read it with much enlightenment and appreciation," James Mursell, Columbia. "A highly valuable compendium of first-hand information," John Haynes Holmes, Community Church. "Promises to be your best work," George Kneller, Yale.

512 pp., black vellum, 6 x 9, \$4.00

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The 27th edition of this well known Handbook, ready in May, \$6.00, reviews the educational year and lists or critically describes over 3,000 schools.

Circulars and Table of Contents on Request

PORTER SARGENT
11 Beacon Street, Boston

**GAMES
for CHILDREN**

THE UNIVERSAL APPEAL of this booklet should commend it not only to play leaders but to teachers, club leaders, parents, and all concerned with children's play. For in this publication, designed for children of all ages, from early childhood to adolescence—for indoor and outdoor play—there are singing games, tag games, relays, ball games, miscellaneous active games, quiet games, and nature games.

Price 50 cents

National Recreation Association
315 Fourth Avenue
New York City

Sundays-in-the-Parks

(Continued from page 88)

spectacular trips to Providence to arrive in time to help out. Gloria Swanson, who closed in Toronto Saturday night, made the hundred mile trip across the border by motor, and caught a 4:00 A. M. train east at Buffalo; Ruth Chatterton and Ralph Forbes, who closed in Atlantic City, made a 6:00 o'clock Sunday morning local to Philadelphia, traveled by express to New York, and flew the rest of the way; and Michael Whalen, who missed out on the same cross-country jaunt as Miss Swanson, stayed over the following Sunday to make good his promise to be at the park.

The contributions of these stars ran from informal speeches through reading parts of scenes to the full dress appearance in character, horse-drawn to the stage, of Will Geer and Joanna Roos as President and Mrs. Abe Lincoln. Jackie Cooper came nearest to being mobbed by his admirers as they poured over, under, and around the police to get near him!

Despite inconvenience and informality, they all loved it. So impressed was Martha Raye that, unsolicited, she mailed to Providence a few days after she had left a check for the purchase of a

\$100 War Bond so that its sale could be counted in the local quota.

One weekly feature which proved its popularity was the appearance of four "interesting persons" selected at random from the news of the week. They included, among many others, the state's first woman taxi driver who drove her cab to the stage after previously appearing "straight" as a band vocalist; the state's first WAAC; Governor McGrath and Lieutenant Governor Louis Capelli; Dr. Henry M. Wriston, president of Brown University; state OPA director, Christopher Del Sesto; sportscaster Jim Britt; and Coxswain J. C. Cullen, U. S. Coast Guard, discoverer of the Nazi spies on Long Island. The Naval Construction Battalions, Seabees of the Navy, the Coast Guard, and the Army all had their days.

Entertainment hit a wide range. Night club and vaudeville artists, oratorio societies, crack brass bands, fife, bugle, and drum corps, a champion pipers' band, vocalists, choruses, novelty acts (some with animals), comedians, tragedians, child entertainers—all had their places. Variety was the key note and none was permitted to "stay on" too long. Upon everyone was impressed the late George M. Cohan's philosophy of "leave 'em while they still want you."

One week's expenses ran to less than \$20; another reached the peak of slightly more than \$400. All bills were paid and there is \$27 left to begin operations again this summer. The committee had the feeling of having done a job well. The war-weary home folks were loud in their praises and Sundays-in-the-Parks is scheduled to go on again in 1943 in Providence.

Day Camping

(Continued from page 73)

6. At the end of each thirty day period, please submit to this office a written report showing the dates of the various camp outings, the troop identification (troop No.), the Scoutmaster in charge, and the number of persons participating in the outing, as well as the results of the field executive's inspection after the outing is over. We should like this information for overnight camps as well as organized hikes to the camp sites.

7. Above all, impress upon all Scouts that these natural tracts are public property, control of which is vested in the Park Board. They are for the benefit and enjoyment of the public generally. Urban development in and around Dallas has con-

verted most of our land into residential, industrial and business usage. The natural beauty and utility of these sites for camp purposes now and in the future hinges on the care which "Scouters" will exercise in frequenting these areas.

"May I assure you," states Mr. Houston in issuing these requirements, "that the Park Board is eager to have these camp sites served to the fullest extent."

Ithaca's Day Camp

The Board of Education of Ithaca, New York, is one of the groups to take advantage of the cooperation of the local Park Department. Last year it established a camp site a mile from the center of the city on property which the Park Department recently transferred to the Board of Education for use as a recreation field for girls. The swimming beach is within half mile of the site which has on it a large recreation building with all facilities. The daily program consists of work-play projects in crafts, nature, pageantry, sports, swimming, cooking, hiking, and first aid. Each week a radio program on nature was broadcast under the leadership of Professor E. Laurence Palmer. Other special events included weekly dramatic performances and on the final day programs for parents and friends.

The staff consisted of four special project teachers from the schools who took charge of dramatics, arts and crafts, science and sports, and a school nurse. The selection of the children—and there were 215 boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14—was made in April by public and parochial school nurses. Daily health inspection was required.

The camp operated on a daily basis, from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon. Leaders met the children at five different sections of the city and hiked to camp, returning at four o'clock. Each camper brought a lunch of sandwiches and fruit. Milk was served at a minimum cost. Last year it was possible to secure food from the surplus commodities and each child was given a hot dish prepared by the Evacuation Committee on Feeding through the cooperation of the County Nutrition Committee.

This year the budget provided by the Board of Education for the camping program will be increased \$250. This will make possible overnight camping at a state park about three miles from the center of the city.

MAY 1943

"Gotta Date Tonight?"

- Readers of **Recreation** will be interested to know that articles on teen age recreation which have appeared in recent issues of the magazine have been brought together in a pamphlet under the title, "**Gotta Date Tonight?**"

This pamphlet, presenting as it does practical experiences in providing recreation for boys and girls in their teens, will be a valuable supplement to **Teen Trouble**, recently issued by the Association at 10 cents a copy.

Order your copy of

"GOTTA DATE TONIGHT?"

Price 15 cents

National Recreation Association

315 Fourth Avenue, New York City

Powwow on the Playground

(Continued from page 65)

our "Indians" from pool and park. Some device was needed to arouse the curiosity of an entire neighborhood and to assure heads popping out of windows.

Why not a parade? Toy drums were gathered, as well as tambourines, bells, and anything that would attract attention. Indian costumes or blankets were acquired and some of the boys borrowed mother's lipstick for war paint! The Indians lined up behind a large wrapping paper sign which had been painted to advertise the event and away they marched, enjoying themselves thoroughly. Maybe this would succeed in bringing out a crowd.

It did! The parade not only brought out more children than could possibly live in the immediate neighborhood but also their parents. Mothers and fathers filled up the few benches, lined up all around the playground, and still kept coming. Some of them looked as if they would have enjoyed playing Indian themselves.

The games had to be simple because complicated directions for such a large group would have been impossible. They were highly competitive and

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and

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really exciting. First came a "contest of skill." Bowls of beans were given to each tribal circle and each brave received a straw. By sucking in through the straw, he drew out as many beans as possible before the drums stopped beating.

Beans were hoarded carefully until each member of the tribe had a chance to prove his prowess, then the total for the circle was counted. As in each competition, the highest tribe was given five points, the next team three, then two, and the last one. These points were posted on a scoreboard to determine the winning tribe at the end of the Powwow.

The tug of war created great excitement, as did the potato race and shuttle relays. But in spite of great enthusiasm, the tribes stayed together and took pride in maintaining their circles. The atmosphere was one of wholehearted sportsmanship and a real desire to emulate all good Indian qualities.

Since some things should be done for the sheer joy of doing them, there were no prizes. At the close, all tribes joined hands in one tremendous circle for the announcement of the winners. War whoops and applause, re-echoing over the play-

ground, proved that the Indians had enjoyed themselves heartily.

Had there been more time, community singing and the flag salute would have made a fitting close, but darkness fell swiftly and sent the happy warriors home to bed.

While the Powwow was simple enough in itself, it has innumerable possibilities. Indian crafts and legends told as the children work might easily make the Powwow the project of a month or more. Beadwork has always fascinated children and it is possible to make things which may well be sold for war relief.

Oatmeal boxes, decorated with authentic designs found in books of Indian crafts, can be made into tom-toms for ceremonial dances. Decorating the drums will teach the youngsters bits of Indian sign language, and simple dance steps can be learned for a final pageant or special feature of the Powwow. War paint and tribal performances are made to order for boys who need to burn up surplus energy.

The ever useful brown paper bag lends itself to making masks for many Indian dances. Features can be painted with show card colors, and braids for the hair may be made of crepe paper. Surprising effects can be obtained from these inexpensive materials. Boys and girls will love rummaging through the library for books on mask-making, Indian lore, and other background material.

Let's All Sing Together!

(Continued from page 85)

For the first and later sings the program of songs was published to give the public a chance to brush up on old and new favorites. The local radio stations stood by to notify the public of any sing cancellation because of bad weather.

We expected a crowd of perhaps several hundred on the opening night, but ten thousand people arrived! What to do with this large crowd—could they see the words on the screen—could they hear the music? Many changes had to be made after the first sing. From a six by eight foot screen, we had to graduate to a twenty-four by twenty-four screen so the folks sitting a block away could see the words of the songs flashed on this huge sheet of canvas.

The ordinary song slide would not enlarge suf-

ficiently for the audience to see, so the photography department of the *World-Herald* developed a slide which reflects the letters approximately two feet in height when flashed at a distance of fifteen yards. Now the words can be read at a distance of two blocks.

A Hammond organ is used as the musical accompaniment, and a system of loud speakers carries the music and the voice of the director throughout the entire park, which is one of Omaha's largest. The special baton used by the director can be seen blocks away.

Each program consists of thirty numbers—both new and old—and usually includes several hymns. After conducting a poll to determine which types of songs were liked best, we discovered to our surprise that popular songs rated first, with the old favorites and hymns second. Older folks seemed to enjoy hearing the youngsters sing new tunes and gradually fell in line with them, singing songs whose words oftentimes were difficult to pronounce.

At the final all-request program last summer we used:

God Bless America	Oh, You Beautiful Doll
Slopes of Elmwood	The Quilting Party
The More We Get Together	Song of the Air Corps
Omaha	Artillery Song
Onward Christian Soldiers	Anchors Aweigh
Little Brown Church	Quartermaster Song
One Dozen Roses	Coast Guard
Jingle, Jangle, Jingle	Marching Along Together
The Band Played On	Daisy-Daisy
Amapola	East Side, West Side
Brahm's Lullaby	The Bowery
Moonlight and Roses	Man on the Flying Trapeze
Red Wing	Three Blind Mice (round)
Battle Hymn of the Republic	Taps
Good Night, Neighbor	Star-Spangled Banner

As we watched the crowds of people gathering on the hillside we wondered what individual reactions would be when the first song was flashed on the screen. Most people are afraid to sing, but as one group expressed it: "We community singers boom right out and let the chips fall where they may."

These community sings not only give the individual pleasure and an outlet for personal emotions, but also raise the morale of the city. Naturally with such great masses singing together, one cannot expect great artistic results. What is more important, however, in this case is the community

(Continued on next page)

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of
Current Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

- The American City*, April 1943
Recreation in Small Communities, by J. Ray Leevy.
(Study of sponsorship and facilities of leisure-time activities in 62 towns and villages)
- Journal of Health and Physical Education*, March 1943
Fitness Through Day Camping, by William M. Grimshaw, Ed. D.
- National Parent-Teacher*, March 1943
Should Children Play at War? by Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg
- Ohio Parent Teacher*, April 1943
Recreation and Delinquency, by Gordon Jeffrey
- Parents' Magazine*, April 1943
Fun at Home, by Elizabeth F. Boettiger
- Successful Farming*, April 1943
Early Chapel Brings 'Em Back Alive, by Clayton P. Shepard
- Survey Graphic*, April 1943
East Side Youth: Westchester Farmers, by Julita Martinez

PAMPHLETS

- Playthings for Blind Babies*, by Harriet E. Totman
American Foundation for Blind, 15 West 16th Street, New York City. Price 10 cents
- Serve by Saving*, reprinted from *The Camp Fire Girl*, November 1942. Cleverly illustrated outline of projects for girls
Camp Fire Girls, 88 Lexington Avenue, New York City. Price 10 copies for 15 cents; 100 for 85 cents
- Services to the Armed Forces*. How the American Red Cross helps to meet the human needs of servicemen and their families
American National Red Cross, Washington, D. C.
- Schools and Manpower—Today and Tomorrow*. Twenty-first yearbook of the American Association of School Administrators
American Association of School Administrators, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington D. C. Price \$1.00
- The Negro and the War*. Pennsylvania German Arts and Crafts. Post-War Agenda
Practicing Democracy in the College
Relays and Races for Field and Hall
Your Wings
- War Handbook*. What the P.T.A. can do to aid in the nation's war program
National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois
- Wartime Handbook for Education*. Practical suggestions for wartime policies and procedure in schools
National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Price 15 cents
- What Democracy Means in the Elementary School*. Education and national defense series, Pamphlet No. 6, U. S. Office of Education
Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price 15 cents

(Continued on next page)

Magazines and Pamphlets

(Continued from previous page)

What the Schools Should Teach in Wartime. Educational Policies Commission

National Education Association, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Price 10 cents

White House Conference on Children in a Democracy.

A final report

Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price 65 cents

Your Community in the War, A Guide Book of Home-Front Activities

Kiwanis International, 520 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Your Library and Some People You Don't Want in It by Munro Leaf. Written in the author's famous style

H. W. Wilson Company, 950 University Avenue, New York City. Price 50 copies for \$1.00

Youth Publications. A classified bibliography of leaflets, pamphlets, manuals, bulletins, courses of study, and books for youth groups and their leaders. Includes an excellent section on recreation

International Council of Religious Education, 203 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Price 25 cents

Let's All Sing Together!

(Continued from previous page)

thought which unites all the people and brings them together under the influence of song.

The only change that may be made this year will be the rotation of the sings to various sections of the city. Although we were not affected by the tire rationing last year, we may have to carry our 1943 program to the larger communities within the city due to the gasoline shortage.

From past experience, however, we believe that despite the shortages our mammoth sings will still be held at Elmwood Park where large crowds can be accommodated. The public seems to enjoy the great mass singing and arrangements are being made to handle crowds of 15,000 to 20,000 singers each Sunday evening this summer.

Substitute for a Saloon

(Continued from page 77)

Watseka has a population of 3,700. There are 250 students in the high school. According to M. F. Egdorf, the principal, all but 80 of these belong to the Youth Center. Most of these 80 live on farms and must take school busses home immediately after classes. Egdorf is president of the executive committee which operates the Center.

Organizations that are credited with having helped to put across the idea are the Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Woman's Club, senior and junior, all the churches, the Iroquois Club, the American Legion and Auxiliary, and the Business and Professional Women's Club

It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

(Continued from page 95)

much after the fashion of the Yonkers Public Library Bookmobile. The idea will be as suitable for playgrounds as for rural schools. Bulletin 330, April 1942, pp. 75-116.

"National Forest Vacations." Send for free booklet, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

National Parks, Twenty-eight Protected Primitive Areas in National Parks as "Research Areas," by S. Charles Kendeigh. Reprint from Ecology, Vol. 23, No. 2, April, 1942.

"National Resources Development Report for 1943: Part I." Plan and Program—National Resources Planning Board. 81 pp. 25 cents. Available from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Nature Hobby. Why not a club session on making a nature hobby an integral part of the room or home furnishings instead of just clutter?

Nature Recreation. "The Road of a Naturalist," Donald C. Peattie. Houghton Mifflin, New York. 315 pp. \$3.00. Joshua tree, the Mojave, and western conifers.

Nature News. "The Notch News" is published by the children of the Worcester, Mass., Natural History Museum. Martha B. Hall is Curator of the Children's Department. Vol. I, No. 1, was issued in February 1943. Those sponsoring such publications might like to establish an exchange. Nature-grams has listed several such projects.

Nature Observation Club, Senior High, Altoona, Pa., has planted over 1,000 trees and maintains bird feeding stations. Harold D. Yoder is instructor.

Neighborhood Music Nights

(Continued from page 89)

and learning to sing them properly, more combined programs can easily be arranged. Informal meetings can be held at the school auditorium where special talent in each group could perform for the other groups and thus stimulate greater interest in the programs.

Why not talk over this idea with your O.C.D. officers and get their help in promoting a similar program in your town? If you work for music, it will work for you!

New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

The Art of Living in Wartime

By Marjorie Barstow Greenbie. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. \$2.50.

HOW TO GET the most out of living at a time when our activities are restricted and war is forcing so many adjustments upon us is the theme of Mrs. Greenbie's latest book. Written delightfully and in a philosophical vein, the book, with its common-sense point of view on present-day living, has much to offer the individual and family group in meeting their problems.

Camping and the Community

Association Press, New York. \$1.00.

THIS IS THE REPORT of the camp seminar held at George Williams College March 13-15, 1942. The seminar considered several phases of camping, particularly in relation to the war situation, and the information which has come out of the seminar includes helpful material for all interested in meeting some of the basic problems which the camping movement is facing. The contribution which the camp can make to stability was stressed, and consideration was given to ways in which both private and organized camping can develop effective democratic living in camp. A generous proportion of the report is given over to a statement of principles and practices in community planning for camping, and practical suggestions are offered for cooperative action in providing adequate camping opportunities for all groups. There are also suggestions for providing more opportunities for creative experiences in camp, and the needs of the older adolescent are emphasized.

Out of Doors in Spring and Out of Doors in Summer

By C. J. Hylander. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.50 each.

THESE TWO VOLUMES are the first of a set of four books designed to help young people renew their acquaintance with some plants and animals and form new friendships with others. Each book takes its reader out of doors and describes the world of nature at a particular season.

Masks and Puppets

By Dana Saintsbury Green. The Studio Publications, London and New York. \$3.50.

THIS BOOK COVERS the whole field of puppetry, explaining in detail the suitabilities, construction, and manipulation of various types of puppets. Going beyond this, the book explains the more advanced questions of masks and faces, costumes, scenery, the theater itself, and the production of the puppet play as a whole. There are many illustrations, diagrams, and photographs in this attractive book which is an important guide to the beginner in mastering this fascinating art.

Art Metalwork, A Manual for Amateurs

By Emil F. Kronquist. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, \$2.75.

"NO TIMOROUS YOUNG ADVENTURER into the mysteries of beautiful old craftsmanship will here fail of his sure help," says Milton C. Potter, Superintendent of Schools in Milwaukee, of Mr. Kronquist who taught there for many years. In his book, this Swedish artist applies, with the aid of numerous excellent drawings and only essential reading matter, the principles which have proved successful in his teaching. Because of priorities, the metal craftsman's materials are necessarily limited. However, many of the articles described here may be made of silver, which is available.

Almanac for Americans

By Willis Thornton. Greenberg: Publisher, New York. \$2.75.

HERE IS A NEW KIND OF ALMANAC—the story of our United States told day by day, for the glorious events of the Republic's history are not limited to the Fourth of July and a few other holidays. Every day has been made memorable by deeds and personalities, and this record of them cannot fail to bring home to every American a sense of the richness of American life and history.

Forestry in Wartime

U. S. Department of Agriculture. Obtainable from Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. \$.05.

THE REPORT of the Chief of the Forest Service, 1942, discusses the impact of the war on the nation's forests, highlights the war activities of the Service, and shows how much of the regular work actually contributes to war objectives. Earle H. Clapp, Acting Chief, estimates that for the current fiscal year 80 per cent of all funds available will be spent on war activities. Concern is expressed in the report over the difficulties involved with a skeleton force in administering and protecting the 176 million acres of national forests. The Forest Service expresses its belief, however, that essential war needs can be met without destroying the forests, and it believes that nation-wide regulation of cutting practices is needed now as a major feature of a comprehensive program of public action to safeguard adequately the future productivity of all forest land.

Build It Yourself!

By Michael Rothman. Greenberg: Publisher, New York. \$1.75.

NOW THAT YOU CANNOT hop into the car and drive off for the day, perhaps you can find time to do some of the things at home which you've been putting off! If you are one of the people who likes to make things, this book will help you produce some attractive low-cost furniture for your home—perhaps an unusual bookcase, an

interesting cabinet or chest of drawers, or some other useful and decorative article. All the details are here from selecting woods and caring for tools to applying finishes to the furniture you have made.

**Now That We Have to Walk.
Exploring the Out-of-Doors.**

By Raymond Tift Fuller. E. P. Dutton and Company, Inc., New York. \$2.50.

A delightful book opening up to all of us the beauty of the world around us, which "now that we have to walk" may be discovered with the expenditure of a little effort that will bring rich rewards. Not only the delights of nature are discussed, but hobbies, handicrafts and home arts, the reclaiming of old houses, and the opening up of blocked fireplaces. There are chapters on birds, on keeping bees, on woodland rambles, and on walking in winter.

Mr. Fuller has given us a stimulating book which fills a wartime need.

Applied Leathercraft.

By Christ H. Groneman. The Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Illinois. \$2.50.

No pains have been spared in making this book as useful as possible. The more than two hundred illustrations include 133 photographs showing clearly how each step is done, the materials used for each project, and what the finished article will look like. A thirty page section at the back is devoted to drawings of designs that have been especially popular with the author's students. There is also a section on Boy Scout accessories taken up in detail.

Historic Costume.

By Katherine Morris Lester. The Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Illinois. \$3.50.

In this, the third revised and enlarged edition, new text material has been added throughout the book, while a new chapter on "American Costume—1920-1940" brings the volume up to date. All major drawings have been enlarged and design details strengthened in the new edition and sixteen new full page photographs of art masterpieces have been added.

Education and the Boy Scout Movement in America.

By Edwin Nicholson, Ph.D. Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. \$1.60.

Dr. Nicholson in this study attempts to make a critical analysis of the social and educational bases of the Boy Scout movement. In particular the study seeks to answer two chief questions: (1) Are Scouts as a whole superior in character to non-Scouts? (2) If so, to what extent is Scouting responsible for the difference?

Group Work in a Year of Crisis.

Association Press, 347 Madison Avenue, New York. \$50.

This booklet contains the reports of committees of the American Association for the Study of Group Work for 1940-1941. These reports were given at the annual meeting of the Association held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, in June 1941.

Jiu-Jitsu.

By Frederick Paul Lowell. Barnes Dollar Sports Library. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$1.00.

The author describes step by step the fundamentals of the art of jiu-jitsu. Sixty-one lessons are offered, progressing from defensive to offensive tactics. One hundred and fifty photographs help the reader follow the instructions clearly and accurately.

Adventuring Together.

By Louise Adler. Juvenile House of Juvenile Service League, 974 East 156th Street, New York City. \$50.

It was six years ago that Juvenile House, a settlement house and community center in the Bronx, New York City, began its camping program with a home camp, and by a step by step method progressed to a camp of its own with five buildings, 139 acres of land and a lake. How it was done; how the camp program developed; the part played by the children in the development; and the lessons learned, are all told in an interesting story, much of it the "Log" of the assistant director of the camp, and letters from campers.

Camp directors and counselors will find much of interest in this adventure in camping.

Saga of the CCC.

By John D. Guthrie. American Forestry Association, 919 Seventeenth Street, Washington, D. C. \$1.00.

Major Guthrie, who was liaison officer at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for over a year and later general inspector for Department of Agriculture camps, has known the CCC from its beginning in March, 1933. He has seen thousands of camps in every corps area, and in almost every state. His Saga is real—a vivid and dramatic picture of the camps, the enrollees, how they live and work. Marshall Davis' delightful drawings are similarly true to life for he was once a CCC enrollee himself.

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